





# Guerrilla kills US marine

NPA rebels attack Subic Bay naval base

OLONGAPO, Philippines, May 5. (AP) A suspected communist guerrilla fatally shot a US marine near American-run Subic Bay naval base, officials said today.

The last night attack came after authorities said they had evidence communist guerrillas planned to kill Americans before talks begin this month on extending the base's lease.

US authorities cancelled off-base leave and non-essential travel for the 40,000 US troops, Defence Department civilians and military dependents at Subic and the five other US-run bases throughout the country.

Gunnery Sgt John S. Fredette, 34, was slain in the Liberty town of Olongapo near the base, about 50 miles (80 kms) west of Manila, according to a spokesman for the Subic facility.

Fredette was assigned to marine fighter-attack squadron 323, said spokesman petty officer John Moore.

A police investigator, patrolman Romeo de Guzman, said Fredette was walking along a side street in Olongapo when one of five suspected communist New People's Army members shot him once in the neck with a handgun. The five escaped on foot after the shooting.

Fredette was rushed to the Subic base hospital where he died one hour later, De Guzman added.

Last month, the navy barred most non-essential travel to Manila but had allowed sailors to visit Olongapo, traditionally among the safest cities in the Philippines.

US Ambassador Nicholas Platt expressed his "shock and sorrow at the cowardly murder" of Fredette, said US embassy spokeswoman Victoria Middleton.

The incident is under investigation by both US naval and Philippine authorities. A Filipino intelligence officer, who refused to be identified, said investigators have identified two of the assailants as rebels operating in the nearby province of Batangas.

Filipino and US authorities have been concerned after local military officials reported an alleged member of the communist New People's Army assassination squad was arrested in Olongapo last week and four other members of the team are still at large.

Documents seized from the arrested man, Dionisio Bendo, indicated a plan by the insurgents to kill Americans in the city before the opening of talks on May 14 on the future of six US military facilities in the Philippines.

The United States maintains the Subic base, Clark air base and four other smaller facilities in the country under a 1947 pact that expires in September 1991. The rebels have demanded the bases be closed.

The rebels traditionally have not operated in the Olongapo area because of strong public support for the bases. Rebels do operate around Clark air base in central Luzon.

Ms Middleton said security was tightened at American facilities in Manila about two months ago because of fears of a rebel attack.

Last September, guerrillas killed two civilian employees of Camp O'Donnell, a US Air Force post near Clark.

A town mayor and two aides were killed and at least 10 others were wounded in a grenade attack at a crowded fiesta dance early today in the central Philippines, police said.

The 2 am blast at the public square in Malay, 200 miles (320 km) south of Manila, killed mayor Roger Aguirre and his two police bodyguards, national police Lt Col Teodoro Abayata said in a radio report. Ten others were wounded and in serious condition.



For priest's sake

Hindu demonstrators struggle with police yesterday to protest the arrest of their high priest Swami Sarupananand Saraswati. Saraswati, one of the four top clergymen of Hindu religion, was arrested on May 1 for trying to march with the followers to north Indian Ayodhya town to lay the foundation stone of a controversial shrine despite Muslim protests. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Debate on king's powers

KATHMANDU, May 5. (UPI) Prominent lawyers debating Nepal's constitutional future today recommended passing laws that would limit the powers of King Birendra and transfer the sovereignty of the Himalayan kingdom to its people.

They also asked for a one-man-one vote system and restructuring of electoral districts.

The king should not be an active leader. Instead, his powers should be limited and he should only be a constitutional king, said the final communiqué prepared after 350 lawyers met for three days.

"Sovereignty should be with the people," the experts said. King Birendra, the monarch who has ruled Nepal for 18 years, last month was forced to allow the formation of an interim government led by the opposition Nepali Congress Party. Elections are to be held within a year.

The multi-party interim government is headed by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

The lawyers' meeting, which included some prominent US legal experts, recommended taking away emergency powers from the king who currently can suspend the constitution under Article 18.

A state of emergency should only be imposed on the recommendation of the government after it is approved by a three-fourth majority in parliament, the experts said.

The lawyers also proposed the promulgation of an interim constitution by the king to "facilitate the functioning of the interim government". Nepal is currently ruled by a constitution under which parliamentary powers are severely curtailed.

## Sri Lanka warns journalists

COLOMBO, May 5. (Kuna) The Sri Lankan press council has warned journalists of laws which prohibit writing on classified official secrets.

"Commissioners of the state Press Council, Patrick de Alwis, a communiqué to local editors said under the country's press council laws, no person shall publish, or cause to be published, proceedings of the cabinet of ministers unless it has been approved by the secretary of the cabinet of ministers."

The laws also specify that no person shall publish any matter relating to military, naval, air force and police establishments, equipment of installation which is likely to be prejudicial to the defence and security of the council, said the commissioner in his letter.

Sri Lanka is to hold the second regional conference of Asia on the role of Islamic da'wa (call) in confronting modern challenges, later this month.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Sex offences in UK rise** : The number of reported sex offences in London increased by more than a quarter last year, according to new figures reported in London yesterday.

The 28 per cent increase to over 5,000 offences contrasted with the previous year, when the reported crime rate was stable, the police figures showed.

Violent crime increased by 10.5 per cent, while overall crime in the capital rose by eight per cent to 770,500 in the 12 months to the end of March.

The figures did provide some good news, however, as muggings and bag snatches were down by 10 per cent.

This was a result of police efforts to target street robbery gangs, it was claimed. (Kuna)

**Florio invites Gorbachev**: Gov. Jim Florio invited Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to follow in the footsteps of a predecessor at a speaking engagement at Glassboro State college.

In a letter released by the governor's office on Friday, Florio reminded Gorbachev of a summit meeting 23 years ago at Glassboro's Hollyhush mansion between President Lyndon B. Johnson and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin.

The 1967 meeting focused on military and security issues. Florio asked Gorbachev to talk about environmental preservation.

"Mr. President, May I suggest that the time has come to move beyond cultural exchanges and to consider how together our nations must begin to work to preserve something as precious as peace — our environment," says the letter, dated May 3. (AP)

**Tens of thousands remember Slovak hero**: Tens of thousands of people gathered on a sunny hillside yesterday to honor the co-founder of independent Czechoslovakia, Gen. Milan R. Stefanik, 71 years after he died in a plane crash.

Until communist rulers were swept out of power in last winter's peaceful revolution, Stefanik and Czechoslovakia's first president, Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, were virtually taboo figures, accorded few public honors.

Last year, there was a brief official ceremony in which a few thousand people climbed up the hillside at Bradlo, some 100 kms (60 miles) north of the Slovak capital of Bratislava, to the large monument built before World War II on the site where Stefanik's plane went down in 1919. (AP)

## Nixon speaks

No hope for Democrats

WASHINGTON, May 5. (AP) Richard Nixon, a veteran political prognosticator, says that only serious trouble in the economy would give Democrats a chance to recapture the White House in 1991.

And, said Nixon in a television interview aired last night, the Democrat who best could challenge George Bush if the economy turns sour is New York Gov. Mario Cuomo.

The interview, one of a series the former President has done this week to promote his new book, was broadcast on public television stations.

Nixon said Bush is popular because of a "mistake-free administration." The Democratic opposition, he said, is the weakest in 50 years.

"Cuomo would be able to seize on the haves vs. the have-nots issue more effectively than any of the other Democrats because of his appeal," Nixon said.

"Cuomo has high intelligence. He has heart, or at least he appears to have, and that's what matters."

Nixon called Cuomo a demagogue on foreign policy, a term he also applied to Richard Gephardt, the house majority leader.

capital of Bratislava, to the large monument built before World War II on the site where Stefanik's plane went down in 1919. (AP)

**Cholera breaks out in refugee camp**: Cholera has broken out in an overcrowded refugee camp on the Thai border, and relief officials said yesterday they are concerned it could become a disastrous epidemic.

Seven cases of cholera were confirmed this week in the giant site 2 camp, which houses some 140,000 of the more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees living along the border.

The cases were the first to be discovered since the camp was established in 1985, the officials said. They asked not to be named. (AP)

## Lankan gunmen rob tourists of clothes, money and medicine

COLOMBO, May 5. (UPI) A group of foreign tourists, many of them French, were left in their pyjamas today after they were robbed of money, clothing and medicines at a luxury hotel in central Sri Lanka.

It was the second time in three weeks a band of about 15 heavily armed gunmen had taken over a hotel in the area and robbed tourists.

No one was injured and owners of the Sigiriya village hotel, 40 miles (64 km)

from the hill town of Kandy, rushed clothing to the guests, many of whom were said to be hoping to leave Sri Lanka immediately.

He said over 15 armed men in camouflage uniforms, armed with automatic rifles, entered the hotel and robbed the tourists and employees of their cash, jewellery and clothes around 1 am today.

The armed men ordered 70 hotel staff workers to sit in the lobby at gunpoint while they began robbing the tourists, he

said. "They have taken everything from the tourists and the locals who were occupying 30 rooms at the time of the incident. They were only left with their night clothes," he said.

Tourist board chairman Prema Fernando said "President Ranasinghe Premadasa has ordered a full scale investigation into the incident."

A tour operator who had his clients at the hotel told United Press International

"the armed men were interested in shirts and medicines. They took the medicines from one of them. Some of them also lost their passports. The majority of the tourists were French and we have informed the French ambassador in Colombo of the incident."

"No one was injured in the incident. The hotel is only 600 yards (600 m) from the police station and there is also an air force camp in the vicinity."

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مكتبة الجول



## Church wheeled out of lava path

KALAPANA, May 5, (UPI): A historic church was lifted onto a truck yesterday and driven out of the path of a boiling river of volcanic lava that has devastated a small corner of Hawaii and turned one community into a ghost town.

The fragile Star of the Sea painted church was hoisted onto the flatbed truck with a forklift and gingerly moved a half-mile (half-k) shortly after dawn to a spot near the Harry K. Brown park on the western edge of the town of Kalapana.

Officials feared the molten rock from Kilauea volcano would reach the church and destroy the small building that has hand-painted religious scenes on its walls and stained-glass windows. It has been a fixture in Kalapana for 60 years.

The volcano wrecked three more homes yesterday in the Kalapana Gardens housing area in the rural community on the southeast corner of the island of Hawaii, authorities said.

Kilauea began erupting Jan. 3, 1983, and has been spewing regularly the past seven years, destroying a total of 134 structures. The molten rock has inflicted an estimated \$25 million in damage to homes, other property, and roadways.

The volcano has been especially savage this year, taking its toll on some 60 of the 134 structures in the last four months. Gov. John Waihee has declared the stricken sectors state disaster areas and is seeking federal disaster aid.

Most of the residents of Kalapana are gone from the tiny town, first hit by the volcanic lava in 1986 in the latest eruption. The remaining dwellers have been evacuated home by home in recent weeks. Some 24 homes are still standing but the lava threatens to burn them down.

Electricity to the town was cut shortly before dark Thursday so crews could take down electric wires around the painted church. Workers also cut trees in preparation for the move.

A fast-moving lava flow Thursday broke out from the glacier of molten rock that has all but inundated Kalapana Gardens housing area, and it headed for a store and drive in and the Kalapana congregational church in the heart of town.

But the unpredictable flow bypassed both buildings — missing them by a margin of some 20 yards (20 m) — and rolled on, eventually destroying the beach road home of James Pa at 4:30 pm — the 131st structure demolished by the volcano.

By yesterday morning, the flow was heading toward the park, where the local civil defence command post as well as two brickish ponds are located.

Civil defence officials told reporters and other people to move out of the park, afraid the lava would hit the salty water and release steam clouds containing harmful chemicals, such as hydrochloric acid.

## Hacker given probation

SYRACUSE, New York, May 5, (Reuters): A computer whiz was sentenced yesterday to three years probation and fined \$10,000 for unleashing a "worm" programme that infiltrated a military computer network and duplicated itself uncontrollably, freezing thousands of computers.

Judge Howard Munson also ordered Robert Tappan Morris, 25, to perform 400 hours of community service.

Morris, a former Cornell University graduate student, was convicted last January 22. He faced up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for infiltrating the Internet network used by the Department of Defence in 1988.

Morris pleaded guilty to one count of violating the computer security act.

According to trial testimony, he dialed into a Massachusetts Institute of Technology computer system from Cornell University using a stolen password in November 1988.

From that hookup, Morris launched the worm on the Internet, a national communications network used by university and government researchers. Internet contains information ranging from academic and corporate research to non-classified military information.

But an error caused the programme to replicate uncontrollably, quickly clogging computers linked to the network.

# London no longer No. 1 in phone books

LONDON, May 5, (AP): The British telephone company is prepared for wide confusion when London's phones get new numbers tomorrow and the status-conscious will have a new way of judging who's living in the "right" part of town.

The city's area code is being changed from 1 to 71 and 81. Phones within about 4 miles (6.5 kilometres) of Charing Cross, the city's official centre, will have TBE 71 code,

the outlying districts will be 81.

There is a school of thought that Finchley, Hornsey, Shepherd's Bush, Hammer-smith, Wembley, Putney and Tooting, among others, have been cast into some sort of outer darkness in the 81 district, where self-esteem and property values are bound to decline.

Elsie Burch Donald, author of "Debreit's etiquette and modern man-

ners," laid down the law a year ago: "071 will be a superior number to have. Clearly there is an advantage socially, culturally, economically to be living in central London."

But, said real estate manager Elaine Howard of Blackheath, "we'll be 081, and nobody gives a damn. I have heard it will make a difference to the market, but so far it's all rumour."

What seems more certain is that the new codes will confuse many callers. Londoners calling from one part of the city to another will have to consider whether their call crosses the code line.

Callers from overseas won't be able to rely on the easy-to-remember 1 coding, and callers from other parts of England will have to dial 071 or 081 instead of 01.

British Telecom is prepared to deal with

as many as 30,000 mis-dialled calls per minute, and it has prepared recorded messages in the appropriate languages to intercept international calls that come with the wrong number.

With Britain enjoying a three-day weekend, the real test won't come until Tuesday. The change came because London was rapidly running out of telephone numbers, largely due to the proliferation of fax

machines and business phones that one calls directly rather than going through a switchboard.

Although London had used only about 5 million of the 10 million numbers possible with a seven-digit system, British Telecom decided that creating new numbers by changing the area codes would be less confusing than creating new local exchanges.

Is London ready?

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Mary Lea Johnson Richards, a pharmaceutical heiress who became a major Broadway and film producer died Thursday in a Pittsburgh hospital. She was 63.

Richards, 63, underwent a liver transplant two weeks ago at Presbyterian University hospital in Pittsburgh, according to a spokesman.

She was the wife of Broadway producer Mary Richards, with whom she founded the Producers Circle Co. in 1976. The company's shows have won a total of 22 Tony Awards and a Pulitzer prize and include "On the Twentieth Century," "Sweeney Todd," "Crimes of the Heart," "La Cage aux Folles," "Fanny" and "Grand Hotel," a current Broadway musical hit. (UPI)

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin: A woman who once posed nude for Playboy magazine with her twin sister was convicted Friday of evading taxes on money she allegedly got from an elderly millionaire in exchange for sex.

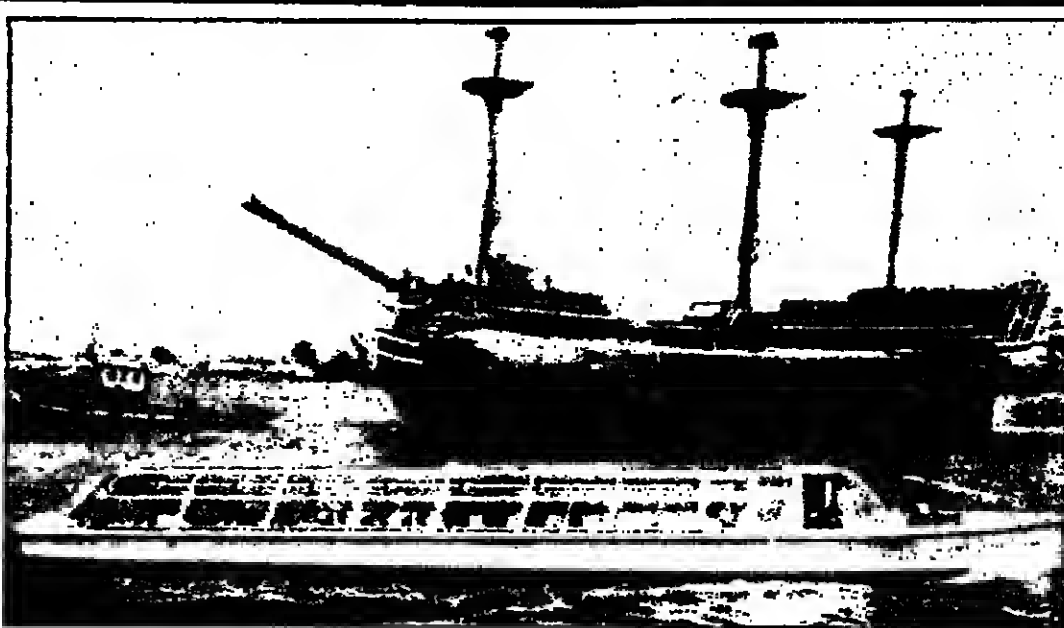
Prosecutors contended Lynette Harris and her sister collected more than \$1 million in cash and goods from the late David Kravitz for spending alternate nights with him.

A US district jury found Ms. Harris, 35, guilty of two felony counts of tax evasion and two misdemeanor counts of failing to file income tax returns. (AP)

WASHINGTON: A 12-year odyssey is coming to an end for the oldest known drifting iceberg, which has started to break up in the south Atlantic.

The iceberg, which once covered over 136 square miles (128 square kilometres), was first sighted in 1978.

Since then it has drifted some 5,700 miles (9,170 kilometres), almost entirely around Antarctica, according to the joint ice centre operated by the navy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (AP)



17th-century replica

A volunteer-built replica of a 17th-century Indianman, the 'Amsterdam', passes a sight-seeing boat in the port of Amsterdam on May 3 as it is towed to a yard in the city centre for final work ahead of this summer's Sail 90 gala of historic sailing ships in Amsterdam. Vessels like these were operated by the Dutch East India Company. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEW YORK: Jazz guitarist Emily Remler has died of a heart attack while on tour in Australia, her publicist announced. She was 32.

Remler, known for her solo guitar performances and recordings of traditional jazz, died in Sydney on Thursday at the home of friends, said her publicist Carolyn McClair.

The guitarist died of respiratory failure due to the sudden heart attack, said McClair, adding that Remler had no known health problems before her death. (AP)

"On first hearing it sounded like second-rate Liszt in a first-rate performance," said John Von Rhein music critic for the Chicago Tribune.

The 15-minute work in E flat major entitled *opus Posthumes* was premiered on Thursday night by Canadian soloist Janina Fialkowska with the Chicago Symphony. (Reuters)

WASHINGTON: Census workers who began their door-to-door count in 110 large cities last month expand that effort yesterday to include smaller cities and towns.

The door-to-door count started April 26. The remaining 374 census districts were added to the programme yesterday, according to

bureau spokesman Ray Bancroft.

Only about 63 per cent of the nation's households have returned census forms mailed in late March. The bureau had hoped for a 70 per cent response and the shortfall will raise the price of the count by millions of dollars because of the expanded door-to-door effort.

The national count every 10 years is required by the constitution for use in reapportioning seats in the House of Representatives. The figures also are used to apportion seats in state legislatures and divide hundreds of billions of dollars in federal and state aid.

Minority groups say past counts have missed more poor and minorities than whites and higher income people. (AP)

## Boy's leg saved by surgery

NEW YORK, May 5, (AP): A 7-year-old boy who faced amputation of his leg because of a congenital defect will likely regain full use of the limb following a complicated bone graft and leg-stretching process, his surgeon said Friday.

Josh Ellison, who underwent eight hours of surgery on Tuesday, was recovering at the hospital for special surgery in Manhattan after the second half of the two-part process was completed, Dr. Andrew Weiland said.

"He's a tough little kid. He's doing great, doing just fine," said Weiland, surgeon chief at the hospital. "He should end up with a fairly normal, functioning left leg."

"He's amazing," the boy's mother, Kate Ellison, said from his hospital room. "It's already hard to keep him down. He wants to get out and do whatever."

The Cabool, Missouri, boy was born with congenital pseudarthrosis in the left leg — a localisation of the disease which afflicted the elephant man. The ailment caused his left tibia, or shin bone, to bend rather than grow straight.

When he was 8 months old, he suffered a fractured leg because of the illness and underwent several unsuccessful operations in Missouri. His right leg was 3 1/2 inches (8.9 centimetres) longer than his left before this most recent treatment began in February.

Josh was brought to New York in February to begin the first phase of treatment, to lengthen the leg. Every day for two months, Mrs. Ellison turned three dials surgically attached to her son's leg to stretch it out.

The device lengthened his leg by one millimetre per day, and when Josh arrived for the surgery on Tuesday the legs were almost the same length, Weiland said. Doctors took a bone from his right leg and implanted it where the diseased bone had been.

## If you can afford it Mansions up for sale in Newport

NEWPORT, Rhode Island, May 5, (AP): Thinking of buying a place to get away to on those hot summer weekends? How about a replica of an 18th century French chateau or the mansion that once belonged to famed author Edith Wharton?

"There are some wonderful opportunities — if you can afford it," said Robin Corbin, owner of the Real Estate Agency Private Properties.

Newport's Bellevue Avenue, known as millionaires row, has at least three homes for sale and more than a dozen condominiums. Other castle-like homes are listed in some of the less visible, but perhaps more opulent, neighbourhoods of this high-society city that once hosted the America's cup and is home to the Tennis Hall of Fame.

Jacqueline Cranwell of Gustave J. S. White Real Estate, an affiliate of Sotheby's International Realty, said there is nothing unusual about the number of Newport spreads listed.

"All the houses we have on the market are on for various reasons, nothing to do with money problems," Cranwell said.

But there is some evidence to the contrary. A four-bedroom, brick carriage house on 1.25 acres (half a hectare) was listed for seven months at \$2.8 million and sold only after the price was lowered to \$1.3 million, Cranwell said.

The Rhode Island Association of Realtors said the northeast has been the hardest hit area in a nation-wide slump. In the first quarter, Rhode Island home sales declined 8.5 per cent from the same period last year.

In Newport, the median price for a single-family home dropped to \$140,000, compared to \$159,000 a year ago.

If you've got the money, the choices are impressive. Bellevue Avenue's Vernon Court, built in 1900 to resemble a French chateau, is one of Newport's grandest homes. The asking price? \$2.6 million.

The 16 bedroom home sits on 3 acres (1.21 hectares), and comes with a swimming pool that is larger than most living rooms, two tennis courts and a garden copied from the ones Henry VIII built for Ann Boylen at Hampton Court, Cranwell said.

Also up for sale is Lands End on ledge road. It was built around 1870 and American novelist Edith Wharton bought the home about 20 years later.

Wharton renovated the home with architect Ogden Codman, with whom she wrote the book, "On the Decoration of Houses," one of the first on interior design, Corbin said.

The Stucco, Waterfront home has 10 bedrooms and 5.5 acres (2.22 hectares), and is listed for \$2.7 million.

In all, Newport has about 200 mansions in private ownership today, said a spokeswoman for the Newport Preservation Society who would not give her name.

At the turn of the century there were about 400 18th — and 19th — century mansions in Newport, but many have been lost due to acts of man and nature, the spokeswoman said.

Neil Bush agrees to testify

WASHINGTON, May 5, (AP): Neil Bush, the president's son said yesterday he had agreed to testify before the House of Representatives banking committee about the failure of a Colorado thrift on whose board he served.

"The panel, chaired by Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, is looking into the December 1988 collapse of Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan Association of Denver.

The connections among Silverado and other failed savings and loans are being examined, including Charles

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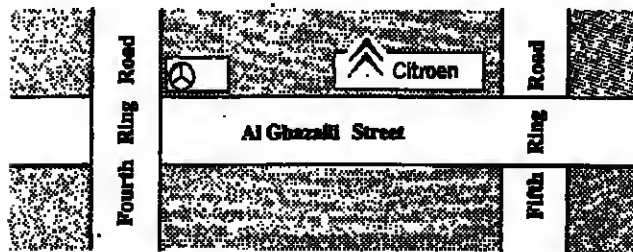
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# Colombian cops slay seven

BOGOTA, May 5, (Reuters): Colombian police said they shot dead the treasurer of Medellín cocaine cartel boss Pablo Escobar and six others on Friday in a raid on an investment company.

The seven died in a shootout when members of the crack police Elite Corps raided offices in Medellín, headquarters of the feared drug cartel, searching for Oscar Ospina Montoya, police said.

Occupants opened fire on them and they fired back, killing Ospina and six others, police said. One of the dead had a murder conviction, they added, and two people were detained.

The police said Ospina, 40, was in charge of handling the funds of Escobar and Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha, the Medellín cartel's military leader shot dead by police in December, and was responsible for terrorist acts. Ospina was wanted for murder and for illegal possession of weapons, they said.

The police said one officer was wounded and they seized a grenade, revolvers, a sub-machine gun and a shotgun.

Local radio said bodies were strewn on the third and fourth floors of the office block in Medellín, 250 km (160 miles) northwest of Bogotá.

The Medellín cartel and the state have waged a bloody war since the government cracked down on the drug trade in August.

The violence surged again in April and police were the main target. Ten Elite Corps members died in two car bomb blasts in Medellín and around 30 policemen have been shot dead in the past month.

The government sent thousands of troops and police to the Medellín area to try to capture Escobar,

## Raid on fugitive drug dealer

### 'No US hand in Gacha's death'

WASHINGTON, May 5, (UPI): Defence Secretary Dick Cheney denied a report yesterday that US military forces were involved in the December air assault in Colombia that led to the death of fugitive druglord Jose Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha.

The Long Island, N.Y.-based Newsday newspaper reported Friday that a small US special operations team planned and carried out the raid with an elite Colombian police unit.

The newspaper cited a congressional source who was briefed on the mission and an unidentified special operations officer familiar with the raid.

"Nope," Cheney said, when asked if the report were true. "We're in Colombia to support the counter-narcotics programme (through training)... I have no evidence that our people were involved in an operational role."

"I've pulled the strings as far as I can, and there's no evidence that any of our people were involved in

that operation," Cheney said.

The Newsday report came one day after President Bush also denied US involvement in the attempt to capture Rodríguez Gacha, one of the leaders of the infamous Medellín drug cartel.

A reporter asked Bush Thursday whether US forces have been involved in missions such as searches for the cartel leaders.

"No. Inside Colombia? Be more specific, please, and I'll try to help you," Bush replied.

The reporter then began to ask whether the US military played a role in Rodríguez Gacha's death, when Bush cut in. "No. US troops in Colombia? No. That's the answer. Next. Or do you have a follow on?"

The point was not raised again at the news conference.

Newsday said three other defence sources and a house aide "confirmed that at least three US military personnel took part in the helicopter assault."

Colombia's most-wanted drug baron, whom they accuse of directing the violence.

The national news agency Colombia reported that Escobar narrowly escaped capture recently, fleeing from a secret hideout near the Guatapé Dam, 190 km (125 miles) northwest of Bogotá, as police prepared an operation to arrest him.

Meanwhile, a car-bomb explosion that killed four people overnight may have been the opening volley in a bloody new war between rival drug cartels seeking a greater share of the world cocaine market, officials said Friday.

The bomb — about 200 pounds (90 kg) of dynamite packed inside a Renault automobile — exploded

Thursday night in front of the La Reja supermarket in the city of Cali, 200 miles (320 km) southwest of Bogotá, killing a 3-year-old boy and three adults.

At least 24 others were wounded in the blast, which destroyed the supermarket and severely damaged 20 other businesses and seven homes.

The La Reja chain of supermarkets and drug stores are owned by Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela, head of the Cali cartel of cocaine traffickers, who began a war in 1983 and 1989 with the rival Medellín cartel.

"One can think initially that this has to do with an act perpetrated by groups linked to the Medellín cartel, especially if we think of what hap-

pened in the same sense last year," said Cali police commander Rodríguez Milón Bautista.

The La Reja stores became the target of numerous bombings when the war erupted on Jan. 13, 1988, sparked by the Cali cartel's attempt to assassinate Medellín kingpin Pablo Escobar.

The assassination attempt was triggered by Escobar's bid to move on Rodríguez Orejuela's operations in New York, officials said. The war included numerous assassinations, bombings and attempts by the two kingpins to have each other killed.

"The possibility of a new war is not being dismissed," said Raul Caicedo, secretary of the Cali municipal government.



A memorial to the four students that were killed and the nine others who were wounded was dedicated on the Kent State University campus in Kent, Ohio, on Friday. Students passing through the memorial area placed candles on it. The

shootings took place when National Guardsmen opened fire on an anti-war protest 20 years ago, May 4, 1970. (Hauter wirephoto)

## Students death marked

### 20th anniversary of Kent state killings

KENT, Ohio, May 5, (AP): Thousands gathered solemnly in the rain yesterday to hear calls for peace and reconciliation at the dedication of a memorial to four students killed in an anti-war protest 20 years ago at Kent State University.

"We do appreciate what has been done and who did it," said Florence Schroeder, mother of Bill Schroeder, one of the four students killed by Ohio National Guardsmen on May 4, 1970.

Mrs. Schroeder said she was convinced the death of her son and three other students helped to shorten the Vietnam war by increasing public opposition to American involvement in it.

Celestessaid, "It's time to turn the tragedy at Kent state of May 4, 1970, into a calling to peacemakers."

The \$100,000 granite memorial is the most ambitious attempt by the university to commemorate the dead and wounded. But about 200 student activists who wanted a larger memorial built and more student involvement in its planning waged a silent protest march during the dedication.

The protesting students stood near the white tent, where ceremony participants spoke. Some of the students held up their arms, fists clenched or displaying the peace sign, and many others held up handmade signs reading "Whose May 4th is it anyway?" and "don't minimise student death."

Thursday evening, some 2,000 people attended a candlelight ceremony to mark the deaths of Schroeder, Jeffrey Miller, Sandy Schuer and Allison Krause. Nine other people were wounded in the shootings.

Former Sen. George McGovern, keynote speaker at the dedication, called the shootings "the most tragic episode in American foreign policy history."

The 1972 Democratic presidential candidate, who ran unsuccessfully against then-president Richard Nixon, said before the ceremony that the Kent state shootings and the death of two Jackson State University students in Mississippi 10 days later helped focus public attention on the war and opposition to it. He said the deaths touched "a common note of humanity."

At the dedication, McGovern called for US reconciliation with Vietnam and the re-establishment of diplomatic ties.

"The war in Vietnam is unfinished," he said. "The killing has stopped but the arrogance that produced it survives and so does the agony, the guilt and the separation."

Until now, the shootings were marked only by a gravestone-size slab erected in 1971 in a corner of a parking lot where the tragedy occurred.

The lack of a memorial reflected continuing political divisions over an event that brought the Vietnam war home.

Some viewed the shootings as an unprovoked act of state violence; others said unpatriotic protesters had finally gotten what was coming to them, although many of the victims were bystanders rather than activists.

To mark the anniversary of the shootings, a 12-hour candlelight vigil, an annual tradition, began at midnight on the campus of 23,000 students.

He absolutely did not die in vain," Mrs. Schroeder said at a news conference.

Despite a steady rain, some 4,000 gathered for the midday dedication, according to a crowd estimate by Kent state police chief John Peace. Many Kent state students were not even born when the killings occurred.

Gov. Richard Celeste said the 1970 shootings should serve as a source of learning rather than as a focus of bitterness.

"To those who suffered from that tragedy 20 years ago, I am sorry,"

## Mexicans linked to Camarena slaying

LOS ANGELES, May 5, (UPI): Three former high-level Mexican officials, including a former head of the federal police, discussed ways to deal with US drug agent Enrique Camarena, who was later kidnapped and slain in Mexico, US prosecutors said.

In a pretrial brief released Thursday, federal prosecutors alleged Manuel Ibarra Herrera, former director of the Mexican federal judicial police, was among 10 men who met in Guadalajara in October 1984 to discuss an agent with the US Drug Enforcement Administration who "was causing significant problems."

"The group agreed that something would have to be done about him," said the court document, which was filed Tuesday.

Prosecutors alleged that Javier García Paniagua, former secretary of state under President Jose Lopez Portillo, was present at a later meeting. García, a past director of Mexico's federal police, was the president of Mexico's dominant political party, the Partido Revolucionario Institucional, or PRI, in 1985. He currently serves as Mexico City's police chief.

The document also charged Miguel Aldana Ibarra, the former director of Interpol in Mexico, was present at meetings to discuss ways to deal with the troublesome DEA agent.

The trial memorandum was filed by US attorney General Edwin Meese and John Carlson in preparation for a major trial involving four suspects indicted in connection with Camarena's 1985 torture-slaying.

Camarena, who worked undercover for the DEA, angered Mexican drug kingpins when he tipped authorities to the presence of vast marijuana fields in the Mexican countryside.

The resulting raid by authorities cost drug traffickers billions of dollars in lost street sales.

A top Mexican law enforcement official has temporarily stepped down from his post pending an investigation into his possible involvement in the abduction of a Mexican doctor indicted in the murder of a US drug agent, the government newspaper El Nacional said yesterday.

I said Pablo Aleman Diaz, head of the federal judicial police, had "momentarily ceased to carry out his functions" until a report by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is released on the abduction of Dr. Humberto Alvarez Macadin.

## Skulls found

AYACUCHO, Peru, May 5, (AP): More than 200 human skulls have been found in caves near a guerrilla camp high in the Andes mountains, military sources said yesterday.

Many of the unidentified skulls belonged to people who died violently within the past two years, according to a medical examiner who accompanied an army patrol to the caves.

The skulls and other human bones were found last month by a civil defence group searching for Maoist Shining Path rebels. Near the caves — 14,200 feet (4,300 metres) above sea level and 20 miles (30 kilometres) north of this Andean city — the group found 200 sticks of dynamite, medicine, knives, and rebel propaganda.

A military patrol from Ayacucho, 235 miles (375 kilometres) southeast of Lima, went to investigate the group's findings. The patrol, accompanied by an Associated Press reporter, returned to Ayacucho yesterday.



President meets commander

Nicaragua President Violeta Chamorro meets with Contra commander Israel Galeano, known by his nom-de-guerre Comandante Franklin on Friday. Chamorro and Contra leaders will negotiate the security guarantees the rebels say they need before they will lay down their arms. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Contra rebels sign agreement

### Disarming by June 10

MANAGUA, May 5, (Reuters): Contra rebel leaders signed an accord today with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro in which they agreed to begin handing over their weapons to United Nations forces on Tuesday.

The accord, read to a news conference by Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, was signed after 16 hours of negotiations over Contra demands that the new government give them economic help and guarantee their personal security once they lay down their arms.

"There is now a fixed date and we are disposed to comply," rebel military leader Israel Galeano said.

The US-backed rebels fought for eight years against the country's left-Sandinista government which lost to Chamorro in February elections.

In an agreement signed last month, the Contras said they would begin disarming on April 25 — Chamorro's inauguration date — and the process by June 10. But the disarmament was stalled because of the rebels' security concerns.

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar sharply criticised the rebels on Thursday for not beginning to disarm on time.

Saturday's accord restated the previous agreement that rebels grouped in five internationally supervised security zones inside Nicaragua be fully disarmed by June 10.

An organisation of American States (OAS) official at the talks said more than 9,000 rebels are now in the zones with more expected to arrive soon.

In return for the Contra agreement to begin the disarmament, Chamorro agreed to guarantee the physical security of the Contra fight-

ers and their families, pulling all government troops out of the security zones and disarming all civilians there.

The government also agreed to announce on June 10 a programme for the reduction of the country's armed forces, a promise Chamorro made during her electoral campaign.

Once the Contras are disarmed the government will give legal recognition to any political group the former rebels might form, the accord said.

Asked if the Contras would form a political party, Galeano said only: "Everything is possible in life."

The government will also set aside settlement areas for the former rebels where they and their families will be provided housing and other economic assistance, the accord added.

Nicaragua's monetary unit, the cordoba, suffered a further devaluation Friday, dropping from 140,000 cordobas to the dollar to 170,000 on the so-called parallel rate.

It was the second devaluation since the government of President Violeta Chamorro took office April 25. The move was a forecast for harder times ahead for the Nicaraguan people, who have seen prices on many consumer items double in the past week.

Labour groups have staged mass protests this week in Managua and throughout the country, asking for wage increases to match the skyrocketing prices on everything from gasoline to toilet paper.

On Thursday, the United States signed an agreement with the Chamorro government to provide Nicaragua \$12.3 million in immediate food aid to help tie the country over until domestic production rises and until arrival of the \$300 million aid package proposed by President Bush.

## Cuba in a state of alert

HAVANA, May 5, (Reuters): Cuba was in a state of military alert yesterday, mobilising heavy tanks, artillery and advanced MIG-29 fighters to counter what Cuban commanders said was the possibility of a US attack.

Four senior generals appeared in succession on the main midday television news to give details of a nationwide defence exercise. "Cuban Shield" — launched in response to US military manoeuvres in the Caribbean that Cuba says are aimed against it.

"We've intensified our combat preparations," air force General Ruben Martinez Puentes said. He added the United States would not catch Cuba by surprise if it did attack.

Cuban TV showed flights yesterday by Soviet MIG-29 fighters of the Cuban air force near Havana, manoeuvres in eastern Cuba by heavy T-54 tanks and night-time drills by female anti-aircraft crews outside the capital.

State television, radio and newspapers carried extensive reports of the exercise, which involves the country's eastern, central and western armies, militia and reserves. All military leave has been cancelled.

The nationwide military alert is in response to three major US military exercises — "Global Shield," "Ocean Venture" and "Deflex" — being held simultaneously in the Caribbean and involving the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay in eastern Cuba. Havana says the manoeuvres could herald an attempted US assault on the island.

The US State Department denied the exercises were plans for an attack on Cuba.

Cuba's Communist Party daily Granma said the island would never be caught by surprise by a US attack and would make Washington pay dearly for every drop of Cuban blood spilt.

were attached to the 7th light infantry division.

The soldiers also were accused of misbehaving their firearms and of disobeying orders prohibiting "sexual contact" with Panamanian women and prohibiting the use of alcohol during the deployment, the report said.

The army spokesman did not elaborate on the case, but said the two would be tried this summer.

The army last month brought its first case against a US soldier in connection with the Panama invasion. First Sgt. Roberto Enrique Bryan, 42, was charged with killing a Panamanian man following a Dec 23 grenade attack on a US checkpoint

that wounded two American soldiers, the report said.

Bryan's case is being reviewed by army officials at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The army is trying to determine if Bryan, a 19-year army veteran, should be court-martialed.

The post reported Bryan's lawyer, Mark Waple, did not believe his client would be recommended for court martial.

Waple said Bryan acted within the rules of an engagement for the Panama invasion, which allowed US soldiers to fire when fired upon or when they believed their lives were endangered.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Woman convicted:** David Letterman helped convict a woman who broke into his home after she was released from prison for one of five earlier break-ins there.

The comedian, host of the National Broadcasting Company's NBC's "Late Night with David Letterman," told superior court judge Lawrence L. Hauser on Monday that he saw Margaret Ray's silhouette in the hallway of his new Canaan home early March 19.

"That's when I first became aware of her on this planet," Letterman testified.

Hauser found Ray, 37, guilty and ordered her to Niantic state prison to serve a one-year term; the maximum penalty for the misdemeanor charge against her, first-degree criminal trespass.

Ray, of Colorado, was released from Niantic two days before her March 19 arrest, having completed seven months of a nine-month sentence she received for breaking into Letterman's house last August. (AP)

**Proposed statue sparks uproar:** The borough of Manhattan's president is in no sentimental mood about a proposed statue in which jazz great Duke Ellington and his piano are held aloft by naked women.

Borough president Ruth Messinger asked Mayor David Dinkins on Monday to cancel city funds for the monument at the northeast corner of Central Park.

"We think we can find a better use for the \$450,000," said Messinger's spokesman Andrew Breslau, who also called the statue "aesthetically suspect." Dinkins said Tuesday the city actually planned to spend only \$100,000 for installation. The rest is for improvements to a traffic island where the statue would be displayed.

"The current sculpture is the third version by Robert Graham. I don't know if this is the final one," he said. (AP)

**Compulsory community service:** Bethlehem has become the latest US city to require high school students to perform community service in order to graduate.

The school board voted 6-3 Monday to require the class of 1994 to perform 60 hours of community service after school, on weekends and in the summer.



Hope at Berlin Wall

Bob Hope thrust his hand Friday through one of the many holes in the Berlin Wall, shook hands with two bewildered East German border guards and said: "Nice to meet you fellows."

The veteran American entertainer, wearing a red baseball cap, met the guards on a visit to the Wall while on a tour to entertain US servicemen.

"A year ago I didn't think we would be doing this," he said in reference to the friendly meeting with border guards and the changes produced by the end of communist rule in East Germany.

Just yards away from the spot where Hope stood was a cross where refugee Peter Fechter died to death in 1962, a year after the Wall was built on the East-West Berlin border to halt the mass flight of East Germans.

Hope recalled that when he first visited Berlin in 1945 after the war it was in ruins. He said the reconstruction in West Berlin was impressive.

He also recalled his trip to Berlin during the Soviet 1948-1949 blockade. He flew to the city 110 miles inside East Germany on one of Anglo-American airlift planes that enabled the city to survive the blockade.

"I had arrived in Wiesbaden with (the late composer) Irving Berlin and flew on to Berlin in a transport plane carrying coal," he said. "It was some trip. I tell you."

## Noriega lawyers to list assets

MIAMI, May 5, (AP): A Federal judge yesterday ordered prosecutors to come up with a complete list of \$20 million in assets seized from Manuel Noriega, saying some of that money must have come from the deposed Panamanian ruler's legitimate activities.

During an hour-long hearing prompted by defence attorneys' request to withdraw from the case, lead defence attorney Frank Rubino claimed that US intelligence agencies paid \$11 million to Noriega, with another \$6 million coming from foreign governments.

"I don't know if you can call money from the CIA tainted or not, but it's certainly not drug money," said Rubino.

US District Judge William M. Hoeveler said while Noriega clearly could not use "ill-gotten gains" to pay his attorneys, the government could not arbitrarily seize money without proving he had earned it through drug trafficking or other illegal means.

Defence attorneys have demanded the frozen accounts be released, saying they can no longer afford to represent Noriega in the complex and expensive case without being paid.

But the government insists Rubino may have been paid \$1 million or more and says it is under no obligation to turn over drug-tainted funds to the jailed suspect.

The judge observed that Noriega had been a military officer for more than 20 years and said he must have acquired some money legitimately.

"It is all the more important, of course, because of who is being prosecuted," the judge said. "And we have got to recognise that our justice system is on display."

Hoeveler tentatively set a hearing for the government and the defence to discuss the confiscated assets.

Assistant US Attorney Michael Sullivan said the government did not object to such a list. But he said all the accounts, except one, were in foreign banks.

"Foreign governments will have some interest (in the money) and their laws will prevail over those assets," Sullivan said.

Defence attorneys for two weeks tried unsuccessfully to negotiate with the US attorney's office to release money before deciding Monday to file a motion to withdraw from the case.

Rubino said the government already has spent \$12 million and was prepared to spend \$25 million more prosecuting his client. The attorney said the defence has the right to use Noriega's funds to hire more attorneys, investigators and secretaries.



## The pill fails to solve issues

SAN FRANCISCO, May 5 (Reuters): Thirty years after the birth control pill revolutionised the sex lives of millions, medical experts and consumers complain the revolution still has a long way to go.

More women — 14 million in the United States and 60 million world-wide — use the pill than any other reversible method of contraception. Its long-term health risks are mostly confined to women over 35 who smoke and there are indications it may help prevent ovarian cancer.

The pill was the biggest breakthrough for giving women control over their reproductive lives of anything that came along until legalised abortion," said Louise Tyrer, vice-president of planned parenthood.

Tyrer and other family planning professionals met in San Francisco this weekend for a contraception conference held only coincidentally with the pill's 30th birthday.

The sexual revolution, born on May 9, 1960, when the US Food and Drug Administration approved the pill, has failed in the United States, it is judged by the one to three million unwanted pregnancies and 1.5 million abortions which occur every year, health professionals say.

"There is a crying need for better contraception and the government has turned its back," said David Grimes, epidemiologist and chairman of the weekend conference.

A federal panel reported in February that available contraceptive methods are "not well-suited to the religious, social, economic or health circumstances of many Americans."

The panel blamed half of the annual abortions on contraceptive failure. It also said the United States lags behind other countries in available contraceptive methods.

Congresswoman Olympia Snowe of Maine, and Patricia Schroeder of Colorado have introduced a bill which would seek additional federal funding of \$75 million for contraceptive and infertility research. A similar bill is pending in the Senate.

Women in Finland, Sweden and 134 other countries are using norplant, which is implanted under the skin of the arm and is supposed to prevent pregnancy for five years. But norplant can cause bleeding between menstrual periods.

The population council in New York, which sponsored tests of the drug in this country, expects norplant to be approved by the FDA. An injectable drug, depo-provera, which is supposed to prevent pregnancy for three months, is used around the globe but has not won approval in the United States because, opponents claim, it has not been tested sufficiently.

Ortho, manufacturer of the birth control pill, is the only American company and one of three world-wide doing contraceptive research. An Ortho official said the company spends about \$140 million developing research for testing a new drug before it reaches the market.

## \$1m art stolen

NEW YORK, May 5 (AP): Detectives are searching for more than \$1 million worth of stolen artworks, including Egyptian and Roman antiquities, still missing despite the arrest of three suspects in the robbery of a gallery.

Four ski-masked bandits shattered the thick plate glass window of the Nahan Galleries in Manhattan's Soho district early Thursday, said Sgt. Dominic Rippolino of the Safe, Loft and Truck Squad, which investigates art theft.

They got away with as many as 40 pieces, including ancient Egyptian vases and religious figures, and Roman glass treasures from the second and third centuries BC. Three etchings by Max Papart, a 79-year-old contemporary of Pablo Picasso, were also taken in their frames, police said.

"They survived 3,000 years, but they didn't survive New York, that's the worst part of it," said Sherri Nahan, one of the owners of the private gallery, which offers works for sale. She valued the works at more than \$1 million.

Nahan worried that the fragile antiquities, which measured as small as 3 inches (7.6 cms) to as large as 12 inches (30 cms), might have been irreparably damaged.

"Putting them in a box and subjecting them to a 90-mile (144-kms) an-hour car chase, it's as bad as I can think of handling them," she said.

A team of detectives on a stakeout nearby heard a report of the robbery and chased the burglars through Manhattan and into the borough of Brooklyn at speeds up to 90 miles an hour, but lost the thieves.

# Bat house mania throughout US, Europe

WASHINGTON, May 5 (AP): First, it was batman fever. Now, it's bat house mania. Thousands of oblong-shaped, bottomless bat roosts are popping up on tree branches, house walls and garden poles throughout the United States. The craze has also spread to Europe, where three or four of the structures can be seen on one tree trunk.

These wooden structures provide partitions and perches so that bats can hang out with some measure of privacy during the daylight hours. But when the sun sets and the mosquito swarms invade the tranquility of the night, the bat patrols swoop into action. One brown bat, the most common species in the United States, can gobble 500 mosquitoes an hour, according to bat conservation international (BCI). Even an ultraviolet mosquito trap can't better that average.

BCI, a non-profit group based in Austin, Texas, battles the extinction of bats around the world and debunks commonly held fears about the warm-blooded mammals.

"Most people still believe bats are blind flying mice that spread disease, suck blood from your neck and get

caught in women's hair," said Gary Graham, associate director of Science at BCI.

"Wrong, on all counts." Bats are more closely related to humans than to mice, only about one-third of 1 per cent are vampire bats, and those all live in Latin America and both crows, Graham said.

Bats can see quite well. But to help them fly in the dark, they have a sonar system that emits high-pitched sounds and then listens for the echo to direct them to insects. "The system is so sophisticated they don't bump into women's heads," Graham said.

As for carrying disease, only 15 people in the United States and Canada are known to have died in the past 40 years of rabies transmitted by bats, far fewer than die annually from sick dogs or other pets, BCI says.

For the past four or five years, BCI has been selling about 10,000 bat houses a year. And this year, commercial suppliers have also gotten in on the game. Gardner's supply, a vermouth-based catalogue house, advertised pine-made bat houses in its January catalogue for the first time. "They're selling very well," about 300

in three months, said Steve Kovacic, a buyer with the firm.

The average-size bat house can hold as many as 30 female bats at a time.

"The males like their space" so that only about six will congregate in a bachelor bat house at one time, but they do visit houses inhabited by females, Kovacic said.

For best results, experts suggest placing your bat house about 15 to 25 feet (4.5 to 7.5 metres) above the ground, facing the morning sun — bats like temperatures of 80 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit (27 to 38 Celsius) — and near a source of water.

Don't get impatient or insulted. It could take a year or more for your bat house to attract its first occupants. Bats find their houses just like birds do, especially if your neighbourhood lacks natural roosts which bats prefer such as caves or hollowed-out tree trunks.

Also, bats may only stay for a short while and then take off to roost elsewhere. Bats migrate seasonally and radar has tracked them as high as 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) at a cruising speed of about 30 miles (19 kms) per hour.

Bats have one of the lowest birthrates among mammals — usually one pup per year. Fortunately, conservationists say, they live to be 20. Nonetheless, the world's bat population has declined drastically in recent years because of acts of vandalism and hunting of the animals in some countries.

The destruction endangers fragile ecosystems that rely on bats for pollination and pest control. A recent BCI study identified 300 plant species in the tropics that rely on bats.

Bat houses, which cost about \$25, are an organic way of cutting down on bugs and a conversation piece as well, according to BCI.

Squatters are no problem: because the bat houses have no bottom, birds, squirrels and other animals can't stay. And how can you tell if bats live in your neighbourhood? Simple, either watch street lamps at night to see if bats are chasing moths and mosquitoes attracted by the light. Or, buy yourself a bat detector that picks up the critters' echolocation signals. The device is battery-operated.

## Global Aids up by 7pc

GENEVA, May 5 (AP): Nearly 17,000 new cases of Aids were registered during April, nearly 7.6 per cent raising the number of victims reported world-wide to 254,078, the World Health Organisation said yesterday.

The United States reported 126,127 cases of the deadly disease, nearly half the official international total and up from 124,182 at the end of March.

In a new report to WHO, Uganda said 12,444 Aids cases had occurred by the end of last December. This compared with 7,375 in April 1989. The updated figures meant that Uganda replaced its Central African neighbour Zaire as the second worst affected country world-wide. Zaire reported 11,732 cases by the end of January.

Malawi registered 7,160 victims, a rise of 4,574 since it last notified the UN health agency of the spread of the disease in June 1988.

In South America, Brazil reported the highest total. It registered 10,510 cases as of March, up from 9,555 last December.

The statistics were listed in WHO's weekly epidemiological record. They cover only victims of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and not people infected with the Human Immunodeficiency virus, HIV, that leads to full-blown Aids.

Officials at the Geneva-based agency say the published statistics do not reflect the true extent of the disease as many cases, especially in Africa, are not reported.

WHO experts have said it is possible the real number of Aids cases reached 600,000 by the end of last year, including 300,000 fatalities. The agency has warned that 6 million cases may have occurred by the turn of the century.

One or more cases of Aids — tiny blisters — San Marino on Italy's Adriatic coast reported one case as did Tonga, Brunei, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands and Comoros — so far have been reported by 153 of the 167 who member states.

Because of the high incidence of the disease in the United States, the Americas as of April 30, accounted for 153,720 of the reported and thus the known certain total of 254,078.

Eastern Europe reported very few cases — just 26 in the Soviet Union, seven in Bulgaria, 23 in Czechoslovakia, 19 in East Germany, 34 in Hungary, 25 in Poland, 74 in Romania (said by WHO officials to be far lower than believed).

## Bright light therapy

### MEDICAL FILE

BOSTON, May 5 (UPI): Exposing people to bright light can reset their biological clocks in such a way that shift workers can adapt more easily to working at night and sleeping during the day, scientists said Wednesday.

Dr. Charles Czeisler said he found putting people in front of bright indoor lights for four days and keeping them in darkness while they slept could shift their clocks so they were alert and able to function well in the early-morning hours.

Numerous studies have found that many people who have to work when most others sleep cannot adjust to the schedule, even after years on the job, Czeisler said.

"People have tried many different things to stay alert at night, including drinking coffee and taking stimulants. But research indicates that more than half of night shift workers fall asleep or feel sleepy on the job," said Czeisler, of Harvard University medical school and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

In a study involving eight healthy young men, Czeisler and colleagues had half of them sit in front of bright indoor lights for four days from midnight to nearly 8 a.m., while the other half sat in normal lighting.

During what Czeisler called their "nights of work," the men in each group were asked to compute mathematical equations and carry out other tasks designed to gauge how alert they were.

Those in the treatment group sat in front of lights that were as bright as sunlight just after dawn and went home to sleep in rooms that had windows covered with material that blocked out light, Czeisler said.

The men in the comparison group spent their nights in a normally lighted office and slept to rooms that had window shades or curtains, but no special material to block out light during the day.

Measurements of the men's alertness, body temperatures, and hormones after four nights showed those exposed to the bright lights had adjusted to their altered schedules while the others did not, Czeisler and

colleagues reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

In the men who received the light treatment "we were able to achieve complete physiological adjustment, and that is the first time that I know of that this has been achieved," Czeisler said.

Alzheimer's drug fails: A drug that had raised hopes of offering the first effective treatment for Alzheimer's disease appeared ineffective in a new Canadian study.

Daily doses of the oral drug Tha, given in combination with the natural compound lecithin, did not significantly benefit Alzheimer's patients who were given it over a two-month period, researchers reported Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Serge Gauthier and colleagues at McGill University in Montreal said tests of Tha — tetrahydroaminoacridine — conducted with 52 people suffering from Alzheimer's did not produce any marked improvements in their conditions.

The researchers said they could not show that the patients received any "significant clinical benefit" from receiving a daily combination of Tha and lecithin, an animal tissue found in egg yolks, bile and blood.

Alzheimer's disease, a devastating brain disorder that affects millions of Americans and kills thousands, is a gradual, irreversible erosion of brain cells that control thought and memory.

Victims usually begin with difficulty remembering simple things and regress to an infant-like state, needing round-the-clock attention. They sometimes become violent.

Earlier circumcision the best: Parents who want their sons circumcised should have the operation performed shortly after birth to avoid the increased risk and expense of performing it later, a US report released on Friday in Chicago said.

Most US male infants are circumcised within the first two or three days of birth using a local anaesthesia in the doctor's office.

But if the operation is performed after a few months it requires a more risky operating room procedure using general anaesthesia, and can cost around \$1,000, wrote doctors at the Utah school of medicine in the American Academy of Pediatrics' medical journal.

Scott Williams, who researched 111 such cases of delayed circumcision, said many parents were influenced by physicians not to perform the operation, but later changed their minds. (Reuters)



Warm weather activity

A painter takes advantage of the warm weather to paint a boating scene in London's Regent Park on Friday. The warm temperatures which are being experienced are making outdoor activities extremely popular. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Japan match to US Cray

10,000 times cheaper

WASHINGTON, May 5 (UPI): Japanese researchers reported they have built a new scientific computer that performs as well as a commonly used US supercomputer — but costs 10,000 times less.

In a study published in the journal Nature, a team headed by Toshikazu Ehisuzaki of Tokyo University said its new computer, which uses very large scale integrated chips, can operate at a speed of about 120 million calculations per second, or 120 megaflops.

That performance: "is comparable to the Cray XMP-1 at a cost of 10,000 times lower," the researchers wrote.

Officials with Cray Research Inc. of Minneapolis said they had no comment on the report, but noted performance often falls when attempts are made to mass-produce devices that appear promising in the laboratory. The Cray XMP-1 is the second-fastest Cray supercomputer on the market, and is 10 times slower than the Cray YMP-1.

The Japanese computer, dubbed the gravity pipe or grape, was designed specifically to carry out computer simulations of astrophysics problems involving many cosmic bodies, such as stars in a galaxy or galaxies in a cluster.

The achievement represents a different approach to meeting the enormous computer demands of many important scientific problems. Rather than designing better software for general-purpose supercomputers or systems to hook general-purpose machines together in parallel, the researchers built special-purpose hardware to accelerate their computations.

To a commentary on the Japanese work, Colin Upstill of Plessey Research in Ramsey, England, said he expects the grape approach, and similar efforts in the United States and elsewhere, could be adapted for many other types of scientific computation that require vast computer power.

But Upstill said he considers the new approach "neither inferior nor superior to either general-purpose computers or reconfigurable parallel computers."

"Each approach trades ease of implementation and general applicability for cost/performance in different ways," he said, noting that in comparison to software, it would be extremely costly to "debug" or remove an error in hardware like the grape chip.

The Japanese team cites fluid dynamics and the folding movement of proteins as research areas that might benefit from grape, which uses what computer experts term a "pipeline" structure to simulate particles systems influenced by long-range forces, like gravity.

"To describe such structures realistically we need greater numbers of particles and thus more computer power," the researchers wrote.

By itself, grape only offers astronomers the power to work with models of a few thousand stars — far from a realistic simulation considering that our average-size galaxy alone contains 100,000 million stars.

But because of the new computer's design, a bunch of grapes could be hooked together to work in parallel, boosting the computation power to the order of millions of million of calculations per second or teraflops.

## Indians bury a gamble casualty

ST. REGIS INDIAN RESERVATION, New York, May 5 (AP): Slingshots travelling in a cortege of bullet-proof cars yesterday buried an Indian killed in a factional battle over gambling on their reservation.

In other developments, one faction claimed to have deposed the tribal government in the Canadian sector of the St. Regis Indian Reservation, which straddles the US-Canadian border.

A federal mediation effort was halted, and New York Gov. Mario Cuomo proposed creation of a federal police force for the reservation, which is largely unincorporated by state and federal law.

Factions on the reservation have been battling for weeks over the future of casino gambling and bingo on the reservation. New York state and Canadian police moved in Tuesday to restore order after a clash that killed two Mohawks, one on each side of the gambling dispute.

The warring factions laid aside their differences yesterday long enough for the church funeral of gambling opponent Matthew Pyke, 22, who was shot dead in a crossfire Tuesday on the Canadian side of the reservation.

Reporters were given rare access to the reservation to watch some 500 mourners walking in rows seven-to-10 wide, holding hands. The cortege was led by 40 Mohawks wearing clan beads, embroidered shirts and other traditional Indian dress.

The procession began on the US side of the reservation and ended at St. Regis Catholic church on the Canadian side. Mohawks barred reporters from crossing the border to the church.

A woman in the front row carried a framed picture of Pyke, while mourners at the rear of the procession sang "Give Peace a Chance," the anti-war song by the late John Lennon.

A procession of about a dozen cars followed, some bearing the scars of the gambling violence. One was missing all its windows except the windshield because the others had been shattered by gunfire.

"We're getting sick and angry for the day," said Eddie Gray, who walked in the procession. "It's a day for mourning."

Four hours after Pyke was killed, the body of gambling supporter Harold Edwards Jr., 32, was found near the same spot. No arrests have been made in the killings.

Members of the anti-gambling warrior society, a self-appointed reservation security force, said they observed two hours of silence in honour of Pyke, though he worked on the opposing side in the gambling dispute.

## Hubble wobble gone

WASHINGTON, May 5 (AP): A slight wobble detected in the Hubble space telescope has disappeared, engineers said yesterday.

"We are not seeing anything of that right now," said Mike Harrington, who is directing the months-long checkout of the telescope. "We are not sure exactly what we saw or what it was."

Harrington had good news to report: Ground controllers received their first data from the telescope's science computer after sending commands.

When the telescope is up and running, it will be that computer that sends the sophisticated science data.

## Tafero executed for killing officers

STARKE, Florida, May 5 (AP): A man who murdered two police officers 14 years ago was put to death Friday by three jolts in the electric chair that produced flames, sparks and smoke from his masked head.

Jessie Joseph Tafero's lawyer described the execution as "torture" and Florida Gov. Bob Martinez immediately requested an investigation of the technical problems in carrying out the sentence.

Tafero, 43, condemned for the shooting deaths of highway patrol trooper Philip Black and visiting Canadian constable Donald Irwin, died at 7:13 am at Florida state prison near Starke.

In a 1984 interview, Tafero likened himself and Sonya Jacobs, his girlfriend and co-defendant, to a "modern-day

Bonnie and Clyde." They were denied permission to marry after both were condemned to die.

When a black-hooded executioner turned the switch for the first time at 7:07 am (1207 GMT), flames rose 6 inches (15 cms) from the hood covering Tafero's face and scalp.

The executioner then interrupted the standard two-minute, 2,000-volt electrical cycle, and prison officials later determined a wet sponge on Tafero's head caught fire, said State Corrections Department spokesman Bob MacMasters.

Prison superintendent Tom Barton, who usually shows no emotions in the clinical atmosphere of Florida executions, had a pained look on his face.

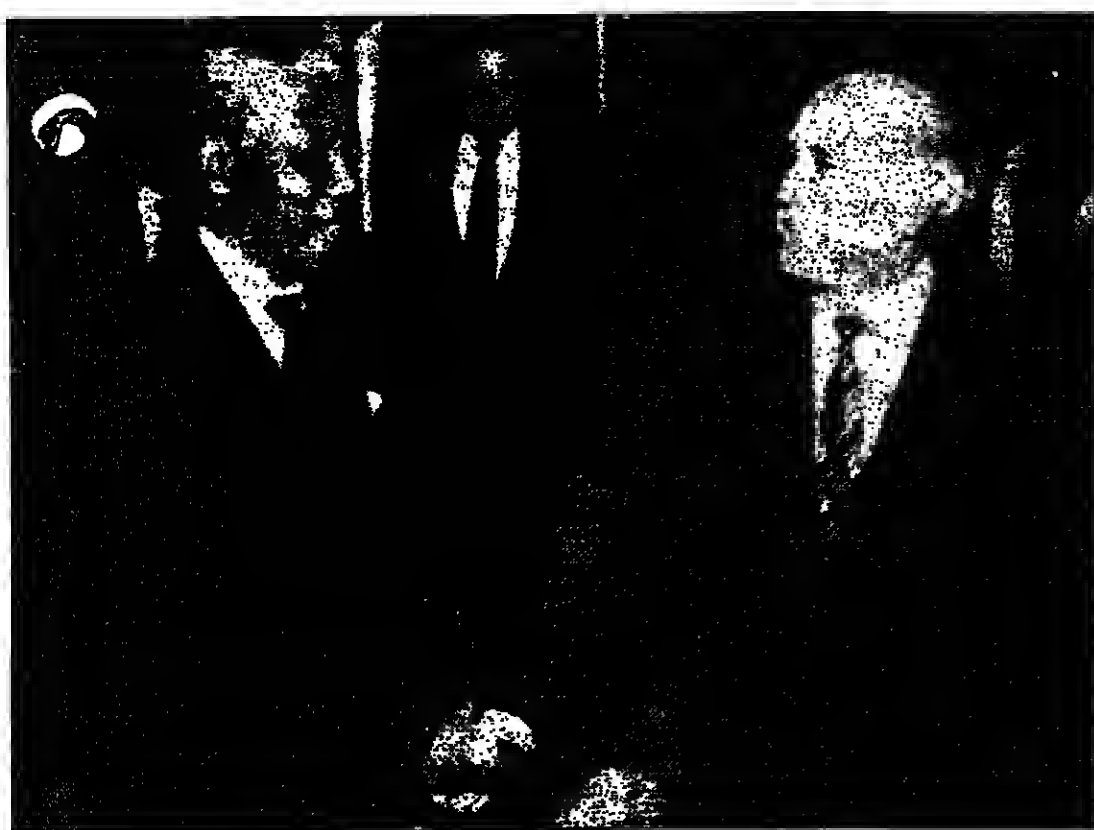


## Thinking of school or university fees?

Seminar being held on Monday, 7th May at the Holiday Inn 7:00 pm.

For further information call Off. — 4732100 ext. 410.





Talk and hand shake

South African President F.W. de Klerk (right) and African National Congress (ANC) Deputy-President Nelson Mandela shake hands on Friday after addressing a news conference at the conclusion of three days of talks between the South African government and the ANC. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Arap Moi rejects multi-party system

NAIROBI, May 5. (AP): President Daniel Arap Moi and his party have lashed out at a US diplomat and other advocates of a multi-party system for Kenya.

In a speech at a fund-raising ceremony yesterday, Moi said Kenya was not politically mature enough for a multi-party system. Such a system, he said, would lead to tribal conflicts, an argument used by many of Africa's leaders in defence of one-party rule.

Then Moi made what appeared to be a threat to restrict the movements of US Ambassador Smith Hempstone, who has publicly suggested that abolishment of one-party rule would bring greater democracy to Kenya and result in a better investment climate.

Although he did not mention Hempstone by name, Moi noted that all foreign embassy personnel are allowed to travel freely throughout Kenya and said he "would not like to" restrict those movements.

While Moi did not specifically mention Hempstone, his ruling party issued a simultaneous statement naming the ambassador and declaring:

"We assert as we have always done, that national interest must never be dictated by external forces for Kenya is a sovereign state, a fact that is not negotiable and which cannot be compromised at any cost."

Hempstone, a former editor and columnist for the conservative Washington Times, has been a very visible and outspoken presence in Kenya since his arrival last year.

The debate over Kenya's political system was ignited three weeks ago when an Anglican Bishop, Henry Okullu, called for ending the one-party system and limiting presidents to two four-year terms.

Moi has served unchallenged for 10 years. His ruling Kenya African National Union has dominated politics since independence from Great Britain in 1963. A 1982 constitutional amendment made it Kenya's only legal party.

Since Okullu's call, a number of other critics of Kenya's government have taken up the call. Their demands for change have been extensively reported by Nairobi's three English-language newspapers.

## Liberian rebels kidnap workers

WASHINGTON, May 5. (AP): Liberian rebels have kidnapped a US Peace Corps volunteer and two European relief workers after the group entered Liberia from Guinea, the State Department said yesterday.

The account was based on information provided by a Guinean who also was abducted Tuesday with the others, but was released after a brief detention.

The Guinean told Peace Corps officials in Guinea that his three companions were in satisfactory condition and had not been mistreated.

He also said the rebels promised to release the three, probably in the Ivory Coast or Guinea, but they did not say when they would be freed.

The two Europeans are a Belgian and a German who work for a French relief group, Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders.

In Paris, a spokesman for Medecins Sans Frontieres, Marc Gastellu-Epckjory, said the missing men were US Peace Corps worker David Kelley, Ludovic Pichrist, a logistics expert from MSF's Belgian section, and Werner Will of West Germany.

## Bushmen left in Namibia starving

WINDHOEK, May 5. (AP): The Namibian government says it has sent emergency food supplies to former Bushman soldiers and their families who were left behind when the South African defence force withdrew from the former colony.

The South African Defence Force and foreign affairs departments refused to make any comment yesterday on the allegations by the Namibian health minister that the South Africans had promised to take care of the Bushmen, but had abandoned them.

# Peace talks win support

## Militants cast doubt

JOHANNESBURG, May 5. (Agencies): Preliminary talks between the government and the African National Congress have won widespread support, but a militant black group said today it doubted the two sides could share power.

The government and the ANC completed three days of preliminary talks yesterday, announcing a joint effort to end the country's "climate of violence" and pledging to work toward a new constitution that would end white domination.

The announcement won immediate praise from most quarters, but the militant Pan Africanist Congress said it saw pitfalls ahead.

"I don't see how the ANC and the government can share power," said Zeph Mothopeng, president of the Pan Africanists. "Negotiations can only take place after an election" that includes the black majority, Mothopeng told a Johannesburg news conference.

Meanwhile, the Citizen, a pro-government newspaper, said "the best way to sum up the talks is: so far, so good."

"But there is a long way to go before the destination, a new South Africa, to which all its people can pledge their loyalty, is reached," the newspaper said.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel peace prize for his opposition to apartheid, called the talks "epoch-making." Tutu, who was in London today, said: "I think the way things have gone has exceeded our highest hopes."

President F.W. de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela, appearing at a joint news conference last evening, said the preliminary discussions were an important step toward normalising political activity and sharing power.

The ultra-rightist white supremacist Conservative Party (CP) dismissed as "pious talk" a commitment to ending violence announced by the government and its chief opponent following their first official encounter.

Political analysts say both the PAC, increasingly popular among black township youths, and the CP, the main parliamentary opposition, would have to be party to any eventual political settlement if it is to have a chance of success.

Mothopeng told a Johannesburg news conference the PAC would not suspend its own guerrilla campaign and would only take part in negotiations when the transfer to blacks of the white-owned majority of South African land was on the agenda.

"We will not go to any talks to discuss, but to make sure (PAC demands) are effected," said Mothopeng.

In Johannesburg, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse 100 former policemen and prison warders preparing to march to police headquarters to protest against racism in the police force and prison service.

Protesting students in Taiwan's parliament on Friday. Some 60 students demonstrated against President Lee's choice of his defence chief as the next premier, causing chaos in the legislature and forcing the cancellation of its afternoon session. (Reuters wirephoto)

WASHINGTON, May 5. (AP): A Chinese diplomat announced yesterday that he has defected and is seeking political asylum in the United States, saying he was being recalled to China and feared arrest because of his support of the democracy movement.

Xu Lin, 33, a third secretary whose duties involved dealing with Chinese students in the United States, said he was the fifth person connected with the Chinese embassy here to defect since the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in

Tiananmen Square last June 4. Xu has a wife and daughter. He said he would not disclose their whereabouts out of concern for their safety.

The diplomat said he left the embassy Wednesday night.

He said he was assigned to Washington for a four-year tour of duty in July, 1988. In March, he said, he was told that this was being shortened to two years.

"Many democracy activists in China now are being persecuted and arrested, and my situation would not be different," he said.

He said he has supported the student movement by helping students in the United States renew their passports and avoiding reporting to authorities on their activities.

He said his application for asylum was "in process."

"Since June, 1989, one year after my arrival, China has stepped backwards into tragedy and totalitarian repression," Xu said.

"Today, the opportunity for reform does not exist," he said. "Democratic reforms are rejected by the government."

Liu Yongchuan, president of the Independent Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars, welcomed the diplomat's defection.

"His defection is to demonstrate that he has totally lost confidence in the current Chinese government, and that he can no longer tolerate to serve his regime," Liu said. "We believe that Mr Xu's action represents the wish of the majority of Chinese government officials."

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## Ochirbat in China

Lectures on stability

BEIJING, May 5. (Reuters): Chinese Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin lectured Mongolia's visiting president on the need for stability while pro-democracy demonstrators continued noisy protests in the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator today.

"We are paying great attention to the changes in Mongolia," Jiang told President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat, in a clear reference to the democracy movement which has swept Mongolia and won significant concessions from the ruling Communist Party.

In the northern town of Moron, 17 opposition activists entered the second week of a hunger strike to press demands for the freedom to demonstrate and faster democratic reforms.

Opposition sources said six of them were weak and in hospital. Several hundred people left work to support them and Sanjasuren Zorig, leader of the main opposition group, the Mongolian Democratic Association, went to Moron from Ulan Bator.

In contrast with China where communist veterans led by senior leader Deng Xiaoping used the army to crush pro-democracy protests, Mongolia's movement for change has been peaceful and won a pledge of free parliamentary elections in July.

Jiang, appointed China's party leader after his reformist predecessor was ousted last June, told Ochirbat of the importance of stability.

"To develop the economy needs stability. If there is turmoil then the economy cannot develop. Moreover the whole country's fate will be in danger," he was quoted as saying on Chinese state radio.

Following China's stated foreign policy of not interfering in other countries' affairs, Jiang said he was confident the ruling Mongolian Revolutionary Party which was held power for nearly 70 years would handle the situation properly.

Talks between the government and the Mongolian Democratic Association continued today in Ulan Bator.

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"We want to be seen as a responsible partner instead of being seen as the economic animal," Kaifu told reporters.

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The two leaders discussed potential solutions to the 11-year Cambodian conflict, and Kaifu said Suharto supports Japanese efforts to end the civil war by hosting the Tokyo meeting in late May between Cambodian Prime Minister leader Hun Sen and resistance coalition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

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JAKARTA, May 5. (UPI): Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu assured his Asian hosts that Japanese aid and investment will not be diverted to Eastern Europe, his spokesman said today.

"Attention has been directed too much to Europe, in particular Eastern Europe, and Mr. Kaifu came to impress upon the Asian people that Japan attaches importance to its relationship with Asia and the Asian countries," spokesman Shigeo Tanaka said.

Asean, or the Association of South East Asian Nations, comprises the non-communist countries of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

Developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America have been voicing fears that Japanese and Western aid is being diverted to eastern Europe at their expense.

Kaifu met today with Indonesia's President Suharto, the final meeting of his nine-day, five-nation Asian tour.

At a press conference after





Bush gestures during a speech at Oklahoma State University commencement exercises May 4. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Nuclear arms vital to protect Europe

## Bush speaks at Oklahoma State University

STILLWATER, Oklahoma, May 5, (AP): President George Bush said yesterday that nuclear weapons must play a key role in safeguarding Europe from war, declaring: "There are few lessons so clear in history as this."

While offering an advanced timetable for negotiating with Moscow on reducing Short-Range Nuclear arms, Bush said "the United States is not going to allow Europe to become 'safe for conventional war'."

Bush, discussing the changing face of Europe during a commencement speech at Oklahoma State University, hailed the sweep of democracy through Warsaw Pact

nations. However, he cautioned, "our enemy today is uncertainty and instability."

Bush said, "it will be crucial to see ... whether Moscow chooses coercion or peaceful dialogue in responding to the aspirations of the Lithuanian people and nationalities within the Soviet Union."

Bush's remarks were intended to offer the outlines of a new military and political mission for Nato as Europe is transformed by the reunification of Germany and the collapse of communist governments.

Leaders of the 16 Nato nations will meet in London in late June or early July to

chart a revised strategy for the 41-year-old alliance.

Bush said the allies should accelerate work to determine "the minimum number and types of weapons that will be needed to deter war, credibly and effectively."

He said Moscow and Washington should open negotiations to reduce Short-Range Nuclear missiles in Europe once a treaty is signed — perhaps later this year — to curb troops and conventional arms.

Originally, Bush had insisted that a conventional arms treaty not only be signed but also implemented before talks could begin on Short-Range Nuclear forces.

However, Bush said that as the Soviet

Union pulls back troops from Warsaw Pact nations, "there is less need for nuclear systems of the shortest range."

Acting on Bush's suggestion, Nato scrapped plans Thursday to deploy more powerful Short-Range Nuclear missiles and artillery shells in Europe. Even so, the United States and Soviet Union will still maintain sizeable Short-Range Nuclear arsenals in Europe.

"We're prepared to negotiate the reduction of these forces as well," the president. Yet, Bush said he did not want to leave Europe vulnerable to conventional warfare.

## Soviets tougher on arms control

LONDON, May 5, (AP): Defence Secretary Tom King said today there has been an "indisputable stiffening" of the Soviet attitude towards arms control.

"There are reports that the armed forces are exerting greater influence and are not happy about some of the developments that have taken place," he said in a radio interview.

"I think there have been signs in recent weeks that the Soviet Union is taking a tougher line on arms control," he told the BBC.

"There has been an indisputable stiffening in recent weeks. Quite clearly the Soviet Union is going through a very difficult time, a time of real tension and strain, and quite clearly the armed forces are worried about some of the implications of that," he said.

"I am going to Moscow in a week's time and I'm going to be very interested to see what the attitudes are ... (and) what evidence there is of this," King added. The Ministry of Defence said the dates of his trip have not been announced.

King said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was showing courage in facing the challenges. "But no one should underestimate the scale of this difficult task," he said.

Despite a US offer to scale back its nuclear forces in Europe, nuclear weapons will remain a cornerstone of Western strategy, Nato's supreme commander said yesterday.

US General John Galvin welcomed the offer to scrap plans for modernising Europe's battlefield nuclear arsenal, saying it would help avoid war.

He said the proposal, unveiled Thursday by President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, answered critics who accused Bush of responding too slowly to Soviet disarmament ideas.

Galvin also said nuclear weapons have become a permanent feature of military planning. "A credible deterrent today probably has to have a nuclear aspect to it," he said.

"The nuclear weapons are here. No matter how much we wish or pray, it will not go away. It's here. It changes the face of battle just the way gunpowder changed the face of battle in Europe some time ago," he said.

Nato and Warsaw Pact countries trying to negotiate an agreement allowing surveillance overflights say they cannot reach agreement by next Saturday's deadline but still hope for accord this year, reports said.

About 250 experts from the 23 Nato and Warsaw Pact countries are meeting in Budapest in the second stage of the "open skies" conference designed to build confidence between the two military blocs.

A prototype Swedish jet fighter, whose future has been in doubt since the original model crashed 15 months ago, made its first successful test flight yesterday.

Swedish national television showed the takeoff and landing in clear weather of the 15-minute flight, seen as crucial for the \$2 billion crown (\$8.5 billion) Saab-Scania project. The test flight was from Saab's airfield at Linköping.

# Two-plus-four begin reunification process

## Soviets willing to compromise

BONN, May 5, (Agencies): The United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France today began the process of turning over Berlin to a future reunified Germany and shied away from imposing restraints on their former World War II foe.

"The cold war is over. Our planet, the world, Europe, are now embarking on a new road," said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze after the nearly 7-hour meeting.

However, Shevardnadze said nothing about the main sticking point: the Soviet resistance to a united Germany in Nato.

"Are there any serious divergences? I don't think we should dramat-

ise. This is normal around negotiations," Shevardnadze said.

US Secretary of State James Baker, appearing at a joint news conference with Shevardnadze and the representatives of the four other countries, gave an upbeat assessment.

Baker re-emphasised that Washington and the other participants are behind a "unified, sovereign Germany."

"It is our view that Germany should not be singled out," Baker said. He appeared to be referring to any attempt to bring discussions about disarming Germany into the six-nation unification talks. The



(L-R) Baker, Shevardnadze, Kohl, Genscher, Hurd and Dumas pose before the 'Two plus Four' talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Rallies for resignation Iliescu agrees to open talks

BUCHAREST, May 5, (AP): Interim President Ion Iliescu has agreed to open talks on Tuesday with anti-government protesters who have rallied for his resignation for two weeks, officials said.

Officials said the decision to talk to the protesters was reached late last night after talks between Iliescu, Vice-President Ion Caranitiu and other high-ranking officials.

As late as Thursday, Vice-Premier Gelu Voican-Voiculescu dismissed the demonstrators as hoodlums and ruled out dialogue.

But the rally, which began April 22, has attracted crowds of up to 10,000 has gained momentum each evening, and spread to at least two other major cities.

The number of hunger strikers voting to fast until Iliescu resigns has climbed from 21 early this week to 57, increasing the pressure for talks.

The demonstrators in Bucharest, Romania's second-largest city of Brasov and the western city of Timisoara claim Iliescu and fellow members of the National Salvation Front that dominates government still barbour communist or totalitarian inclinations.

Iliescu, who took over as president after the December revolution that toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, is nonetheless considered the favourite in presidential elections May 20.

## German leader ends visit

GDANSK, Poland, May 5, (AP): West German President Richard von Weizsäcker heard his country's national anthem played yesterday on the peninsula where World War II began, a symbolic reconciliation 50 years after history's bloodiest conflict.

The emotional moment on Westerplatte peninsula highlighted Weizsäcker's day in this Baltic port city, which for 1,000 years has figured prominently in both Polish and German history.

The first West German head of state to visit Poland also met with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and with college students on the third day of a trip designed to reassure Poles they have nothing to fear from the coming reunification of Germany.

Weizsäcker concludes his trip to Poland today with a tour of German cultural and historical sites in the nearby Polish countryside that formerly was east Prussia.

"The younger generation should know what happened here in Gdansk, so that a better future comes from a bad past," Weizsäcker told 500 Gdansk University students in a wide-ranging question-and-answer session.

Weizsäcker's visit comes at a new and critical stage in the complex German-Polish relations as Poland presses for a place on talks on German unification to ensure its security interests, including its post-war western border.

Poland will be allowed to participate in sessions of the talks concerning the German-Polish border, but wants broader participation.

## UK, France to forge closer links in security

WADDESDON, England, May 5, (AP): Britain and France, which have jealously guarded the independence of their nuclear forces, announced yesterday they will force closer links in security and defence matters.

The French and British defence ministers later announced they were looking at the possibilities of co-operation on unspecified nuclear programmes.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Francois Mitterrand of France announced the defence co-operation at a news conference during the annual Anglo-French summit. It was held a day after US Secretary of State James Baker announced that short-range nuclear missiles in Germany, which will become obsolete in 1995, will not

be replaced. Thatcher, who had favoured a new Lance missile, said the decision made by US President George Bush increased the importance of modernizing the present "free-fall" nuclear bombs... to a missile from air-to-ground."

Mitterrand endorsed Bush's decision on the Lance, "which is the position I had in fact called for myself in 1988." He said France wants to link modernization or reductions in nuclear weapons to concrete results from Vienna talks on reducing conventional forces.

Both of us as independent nuclear deterrent powers — the only two in Europe — we feel we should co-operate more closely

on security and defence matters," Thatcher said. "We have asked our foreign and defence ministers to supervise a programme on enhanced co-operation on these issues with particular emphasis on future security arrangements in Europe," she said.

"No field is precluded from such co-operation," said Mitterrand. "Let's move forward. We will not overnight achieve co-ordination as complete as I would wish, but we will move forward."

Britain and France have not included their nuclear arsenals in the superpower arms reduction talks. Both countries maintain they need nuclear weapons as an essential minimal deterrent.



Thatcher, Mitterrand shown together at Waddesdon Manor May 4. (Reuters wirephoto)



Latvian deputies raise voting cards in Parliament May 4. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Latvia plans currency

RIGA, USSR, May 5, (AP): Latvian economists moved quickly today to take practical steps toward making their republic independent, announcing plans to launch a convertible Latvian currency.

The republic's legislature yesterday joined neighbouring Lithuania and Estonia in declaring independence from the Soviet Union, 50 years after the Kremlin annexed the three Baltic republics.

However, it said full independence would come only after an indefinite period of negotiation with Soviet authorities.

Latvian President Anatoly Gorbunov said the talks were expected to begin May 15 at a low level.

Although huge crowds of Latvians ecstatically greeted their legislature's declaration with tears, a chorus of the republic's traditional anthem and dancing in the streets, some were not pleased.

About 300 people gathered on Riga's Cathedral Square today morning to hear speakers say the independence declaration was illegal and should be revoked. The rally was organised by Interfront, which groups ethnic Russians and other non-Latvian residents of the republic.

Latvian youth newspaper, devoted its entire front page today to the declaration and photos of Gorbunov, voting booths at the Supreme Soviet and the crowd outside.

Economists of the new Latvia fund told reporters in Riga, the republic's capital, that work was under way to restore the pre-Soviet Latvian currency, the Lat.

The fund, created last month, plans to immediately issue bonds and lottery tickets that can be sold abroad for \$11 million to finance the creation and printing of the new currency, they said.

The Lat may enter circulation — coexisting with the non-convertible Soviet ruble — as early as next year, fund members predicted. Similar plans for republic currencies have been announced in Estonia and Lithuania, but none has been issued yet.

"This is not theory. This is a concrete step to independence," said Jazeps Barkans, director of

## Lithuania blockade Oil running out

VILNIUS, Soviet Union, May 5, (Reuters): Lithuania's Deputy Prime Minister said yesterday the republic would run out of fuel this month and a political compromise was needed to break the Kremlin's economic blockade.

Algirdas Brazauskas told a news conference that the breakaway republic had not found oil supplies to replace those Moscow is withholding.

"We cannot live without oil. No modern country can," Brazauskas told reporters in Vilnius, the republic's capital.

Moscow imposed its blockade to try to force the republic to rescind its March 11 declaration of independence.

Brazauskas said the republic would run out of oil by May 15 or 20 and would have no more petrol by the end of the month. Lithuania needed 600,000 tonnes of oil a month, he said.

"To put an end to the blockade a political decision is needed. No amount of economic measures, no matter how far-sighted, can bring about negotiations with Moscow," he said.

Asked what kind of political decision was necessary, Brazauskas said parliament could suspend laws passed to bolster its declaration of independence.

He did not call for a suspension of the declaration itself, which Moscow says is a pre-requisite for talks.

In Washington the visiting Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene declared that her republic's independence decree was "irrevocable and unchangeable," urged the United States on Friday not to grant the Soviet Union favourable trading status.

Prunskiene, who travelled to London to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, an unofficial Soviet news agency said today.

A report by the Estonian News Service, which could not be immediately confirmed, said Prunskiene would fly directly to Britain from the United States and would meet Thatcher on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Soviet authorities allowed the first shipment of foreign aid to enter Lithuania from Poland yesterday but banned the truck that carried it, an Austrian official who accompanied the shipment said.

Gorbunov later was asked at a news conference what reaction he expected from the Kremlin. He said he could not predict what Moscow would say, but he added that the Latvian government had tried to make it clear in the declaration that there is "no cause to close the door on dialogue and start setting ultimatums."

Although Latvia, unlike Lithuania, did not demand immediate independence, its move is not within the guidelines stated in the Soviet Union's new law on secession.

The measure was approved 138-0. Fifty-seven anti-independence lawmakers refused to cast ballots.

After the vote was announced, Latvians inside and outside the hall broke into a chorus of "God Bless Latvia," the republic's traditional anthem. A cheering crowd showered emerging lawmakers with roses, panies and daffodils.

## CDU hopes to clinch stunning win

## Croatians vote in second round

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, May 5, (AP): A centre-right party that advocates Croatia's independence from Yugoslavia hopes to clinch its stunning election victory in a second round of voting tomorrow.

The Croatian Democratic Union won 104 of the 131 seats in the 356-seat tri-Cameral Republican Parliament decided in the first round of voting April 22-23, which was the republic's first free election in 50 years.

The remaining 225 seats are to be decided in balloting tomorrow and Monday. First results are not expected until Monday afternoon.

Political observers believe another victory for the CDU and its leader Franjo Tudjman, a retired army gen-

eral once imprisoned for almost five years for alleged nationalism, will intensify the split between Croatia and Serbia.

The two largest of Yugoslavia's six republics have been fierce rivals since the country was created in 1918.

Serbia indicated yesterday it may follow Croatia and its northern neighbour, Slovenia, in staging free elections in the next six months.

But a victory by pro-independence forces in Croatia would likely bolster the Serbian communists who advocate a centralised Yugoslavia and have used nationalism to help keep a firm grip on power.

Yugoslavia is already effectively one country with two systems — the one-party communist rule in Serbia,

and the greater pluralism of Croatia and its northern neighbour, Slovenia.

In free elections last month in Slovenia, the republic's reform communists lost the Parliament, although their popular leader, Milan Kucan, won the republic's presidency.

The centrist coalition for national accord, considered a pre-election favourite, won only three seats.

Predicting the outcome of the second round is complicated by the fact that a majority is not required to win a seat; the winner is the candidate garnering the most votes. In the first round, more than 50 per cent of the vote was needed for victory.



# World News Roundup

# Amnesty plan opens political rift

## Mitterrand's popularity sliding to all-time low

PARIS, May 5, (AP) — Opposition lawmakers exploited a slide in President Francois Mitterrand's popularity yesterday with a parliamentary attack on an amnesty plan excusing political food-raising abuses.

The three main conservative and centrist groups in the national assembly filed a no-confidence motion against the socialist government for "deceiving national representatives" when the amnesty bill passed last December.

Their move followed mounting public uproar over the bill. In recent days, prisoners have rioted and judges have freed criminal suspects to protest what they see as politicians putting themselves above the law.

Recent polls have shown Mitterrand's

popularity sliding to an all-time low of 39 per cent. One reason, analysts say, was a high court judgment that effectively annulled former cabinet minister Christian Nucci.

"This moral drift is unacceptable," complained Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, leader of the right-wing Rally for the Republic (RPR) Party and orchestrator of the censure motion.

"Will there be two laws in France?" Chirac asked in a television interview on Thursday. "One favouring politicians and their schemes when the case arises, and another one for the rest of the French?"

If passed next week by the 577-seat assembly, the censure would require Mitterrand to replace socialist Premier Michel Rocard.

But the Communist Party said yesterday it will not support the motion originating from the right wing. That would give the socialists, the dominant party 272 seats, a likely majority of votes cast.

The assembly passed the socialist-proposed amnesty bill last year, with all communists and many rightists voting against it. But the key centre-right parties abstained, allowing the measure to carry 283-168 with almost unanimous socialist backing.

The amnesty came as several officeholders from across the political spectrum fell afoul of financing laws that provided no legal way to raise the large sums of money needed to run modern campaigns.

## Tories suffer poll setback

LONDON, May 5, (AP) — Britain's Labour Party rejected yesterday in sweeping local election victories, but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher took comfort that the results were not as bad as expected.

And some analysts predicted that Thatcher was now more secure against possible challenges to her leadership of the Conservative Party.

Millions of voters protesting soaring home loan rates and an unpopular new tax, the so-called poll tax, deserted the Conservatives.

But the huge 11 per cent swing against the government was only half Thatcher's near record 20-point deficit in opinion polls.

Share prices rose on the London stock exchange, reflecting relief by big business.

In the most important trend for Labour, the party posted significant gains in the prosperous and heavily populated south for the first time since Thatcher ousted a Labour government in 1979.

"That is the spread of support that we need which makes me forecast that we are certain to win the next election," said Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock.

But in London, the Conservative performed well.

In a particularly sore loss for Kinnock, the Tories wrested from Labour the west London borough of Ealing where he lives.

"I am sure Neil's residence in Ealing is extremely welcome to his immediate neighbours," snapped Bryan Gould, a Labour campaign manager, "but I don't think it is a big factor in terms of people's voting preferences."

And the Tories held with increased majorities two other key boroughs, Wandsworth and Westminster.

These councils have set the lowest poll tax rates in Britain, been lauded by Thatcher and accused by Labour of rigging the figures as a one-off bribe to voters.

The Conservatives remained virtually shut out in Scotland and performed badly in northern England, losing the industrial city of Bradford.

"We've lost some we hoped to hold ... but we have a very good basis on which to go forward and win the next general election," declared Thatcher. She said the party had "confounded the polls."

With results declared from all but one of the 201 councils contested, Labour gained 300 seats, the Conservatives lost 191 and the centrist Social and Liberal Democratic Party lost 48.

Apart from the Scottish nationalists and the tiny Green Party, other minority parties all had net losses in the some 5,000 seats contested.

Labour control of 110 of the councils contested, up from 97, the Conservatives had 51, down from 60. The centrist had 17, down two. No party won a majority in the rest.

BBC political correspondent John Cole said the better-than-expected result for Thatcher's party "will fortify her leadership against the assault that is going on."

"All have some cause to be grateful for the results. All have some cause to be anxious," said Cole.

Thatcher, Britain's first woman leader, on Wednesday called on more women to bring their "common sense" into politics.



Reed responds to journalists' questions before leaving the US Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden on May 4 for his return flight to the US. Reed is with his wife Phil. (Reuter wirephoto)



Reed makes remarks shortly after his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington DC on Friday. Surrounding Reed are from left: wife Fahima, Reed, Peggy Say, Marilyn Langston, Jacqueline Reed and Sen. Edward Kennedy. (Reuter wirephoto)

## 'Free Arab prisoners'

### Reed arrives in US

## 'I'm unchained'

BEIRUT, May 5, (AP) — Sheikh

Mohammad-Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual mentor of Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim militants, has said no more Western hostages will be freed unless Israel releases Arab prisoners.

Reed's plane was greeted by another recently freed hostage, Robert Polhill. The two men embraced on the tarmac, and Reed whispered, "We're going to get the rest of them out, aren't we?"

The release of Reed and Polhill left six Americans and nine other Westerners still held in captivity in Lebanon.

"Of course it feels wonderful," Reed said in a brief statement that left many of his listeners in tears.

He thanked all those who worked and prayed for his release — including the Americans still held hostage — for refusing "to let me give up" in captivity.

"Thank you for all your love and concern, and yes, for your tears, for I cry with you that this tragic affair will end soon. Amen, amen, amen," he said.

In a brief formal statement that left his greeters shedding many tears as the gentle raindrops drifted from a light overcast, Reed said: "Fellow Americans, because of all of

you I'm alive."

And in a special tribute to all hostage relatives, several of whom were on hand in a customary show of unity, he declared "because of Peggy Say, Kit and Joan Sutherland, the Keenan sisters, Pat McCarthy, and many, many others, I am unchained and unblinded."

Moments after he boarded a bus which was to take him and his family to the Malcolm Grow Medical Center at the base, the caravan was diverted down the tarmac where, to Reed's delight, he was greeted by Barbara Bush as she was about to board a flight to Kentucky.

"We're glad you're home," Mrs. Bush said. "I know the president wishes he was here to meet you. President George Bush was in Oklahoma giving a speech on NATO and the future of Europe."

Reed was released by his captors Monday and has been undergoing medical tests in Wiesbaden, West Germany. He is expected to face further medical tests in the next several days.

Bush, who met with Polhill earlier in the week, said Thursday that he would be willing to make a goodwill gesture toward Iran as long as it did not appear to be negotiations for the release of the remaining hostages.

In an apparent reference to the freeing of two American hostages by their pro-Iranian Lebanese captors in the past two weeks, the radio said Tehran has successfully negotiated with the captors' many times in the past.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted by Radio Tehran today as denying recent press reports that his country and the US are holding negotiations on the release of more Western hostages in Lebanon.

lications in this issue," it said. "The ball is now in America's court after the efforts that had been exerted by the Islamic Republic and Syria to free two Americans as a step toward resolving the question of all the hostages," the statement said.

Tehran Radio said today the US was engaged in Byzantine policies to distance itself from any deals with Iran over Western hostages in Beirut, but that this was blocking efforts for release of the captives.

American Terry Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, is the longest-held captive. He was kidnapped in Muslim West Beirut March 16, 1985.

Hezbollah issued a statement Friday blaming the United States for hindering the release of Western captives.

"The US administration bears the responsibility for any com-

plaints in this issue," it said. "The ball is now in America's court after the efforts that had been exerted by the Islamic Republic and Syria to free two Americans as a step toward resolving the question of all the hostages," the statement said.

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### America

**Heritage week proclaimed:** President Bush Friday proclaimed the week of May 6 as Jewish Heritage Week and urged recognition of the "many contributions that Jewish citizens have made to our nation."

"In doing so, we also celebrate the cultural diversity and spirit of tolerance that have long strengthened the United States," he said.

In the proclamation, Bush said that on May 10, "we also join our Jewish friends and neighbors in marking the 42nd anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, and we share in the celebration of the modern exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union, many of whom are going to Israel." (UPI)

**Ex-lawmen sentenced:** Three white former lawmen convicted of murdering a black prisoner were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 to 25 years.

The prosecutor sought life terms in the case, which drew wide attention in the state from activists who contend mistreatment of blacks by white police officers is common.

Loyal Garner Jr., 34-year-old black man who has six children, died after being beaten in his cell following a drunken driving arrest 2 1/2 years ago.

The defendants — former Hemphill police chief Thomas Ladner and former Sabine County Sheriff's deputies Billy Ray Horton and James M. Hyden — were convicted Thursday. Ladner was sentenced Friday to 25 years, Hyden to 14 years and Horton to 10 years. (AP)

**Dolphins deployment delayed:** A navy plan to deploy "dolphins of doom" as underwater security guards for its nuclear submarine base in Bangor, Washington, was temporarily torpedoed Thursday pending environmental review.

Attorneys for the government and a coalition of 15 animal rights groups signed a legal agreement that freezes the navy's dolphin training programme and puts on hold a 13-month-old federal lawsuit challenging the plan.

The agreement requires the navy to stop capturing Atlantic bottlenose dolphins and delay moving any of the already trained dolphins to pens at Bangor, pending completion of an environmental impact statement. (UPI)

**Selling an idea:** The man with the two boxes of trash bags looked out the place amid the models in cocktail dresses, the stack of truck tyres and the tie-dyed salespeople from the world's No. 1 jewellery company serving the sanitation industry.

"I'm not trying to sell cinch-saks," Thomas W. Higgins confided. "I'm trying to sell an idea."

Higgins' idea — clear hefty cinch-saks — might seem a trifle mundane. But last month's earth day somehow has Americans excited about a mundane task — throwing out trash.

And that has people very excited at Waste Expo '90, the annual convention of the National Solid Waste Management Association. (AP)

### Europe

**Malta appoints:** Deputy Prime Minister Guido de Marco on Friday was named foreign minister in the first cabinet shuffle since the Nationalist Party took power three years ago in Malta.

De Marco takes the portfolio from Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami, who led his party to victory after 16 years of socialist rule.

De Marco remains deputy prime minister but has dropped the portfolio of minister of the interior. That post was assumed by Education Minister Ugo Mifsud Bonnici.

A parliamentary secretary for industry, John Dalli, was made minister of economic affairs, and three new parliamentary secretaries were appointed. (AP)

**Di, Charles to visit Hungary:** An official visit to Hungary by Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana beginning on Monday bestows a royal stamp of approval on reforms in Eastern Europe.

The four-day trip, at the invitation of the Hungarian government, is the first official visit to Eastern Europe by members of the British royal family since democracy began sweeping the region.

The visit lays the groundwork for other British royal tours of Eastern Europe. Queen Elizabeth has accepted in principle an invitation by President Mikhail Gorbachev to visit the Soviet Union but no date has been set. (Reuter)

**Forced adoptions:** East Germany's former communist government routinely forced politically undesirable parents to give up their children for adoption, a West German magazine reported Wednesday.

The magazine "Brigitte" said in its latest edition that unwed mothers or parents considered politically or socially unacceptable were forced to give up newborn children.

The magazine, which quoted an unnamed East German Justice Ministry official, said the children were given to parents who followed the Communist Party line. (AP)

**British soldier killed:** A young British serviceman was killed early Saturday when his motorcycle went off the road in the tourist resort of Ayia Napa, said a police statement. The soldier was identified as Paul Derek Rogan, 21. No hometown was available.

**Bomb attempt foiled:** Yesterday's attempt to blow up a British army barracks near Hanover, West Germany, was foiled as a result of extra security measures ordered by the UK Ministry of Defence last summer, it was reported in London Saturday.

The Times newspaper said the measures included a comprehensive review of security at military bases in Britain, West Germany and elsewhere, and the allocation of a special budget of 126 million pounds to be spent over three years.

They were in response to a spate of attacks on British servicemen and their families in West Germany in 1989, which resulted in a number of fatalities, including a six-month-old baby girl. (Kuna)



Back from exile

Albie Sachs arrives at his hometown in Cape Town yesterday after 24 years in exile. Sachs was greeted home by his mother Ray Edwards. (Reuter wirephoto)

### ANC veteran

## Albie Sachs ends exile

CAPE TOWN, May 5, (Reuter) — White African National Congress (ANC) veteran Albie Sachs, in exile from South Africa since 1966, returned home today to an emotional reunion with his 85-year-old mother.

Sachs, a 55-year-old lawyer, who was maimed by a car bomb in Mozambique in 1988, is a member of the ANC's policy-making national executive committee and the movement's chief constitutional thinker.

"It's wonderful to be home, it's wonderful to be back in Cape Town. Emotionally, spiritually and politically I never left Cape Town," he said as he hugged his mother.

He said he would consult with ANC leaders about proposals for a non-racial constitution for South Africa after negotiations launched this week in a pioneering meeting between the ANC and the white government of President F.W. de Klerk.

"I think we are on the brink of a new era in South Africa," he said.

Sachs trained as a lawyer in Cape Town but fled the country in 1966 after 170 days detention in solitary confinement without charge or trial.

"It was a wrench to leave and now I am home, but not all of my body is home and that is going to take some time to overcome," he said at Cape Town's D.F. Malan airport.

Sachs lost his right arm and his face was deeply scarred in April 1988 when a bomb exploded in his car in Mozambique, where he worked for 11 years as an ANC lawyer and strategist.

He said he was not bitter about the price of his opposition to white rule in South Africa. "All I feel now is hope and joy and some sadness about what was lost," Sachs said.

His mother, supported by women in khaki ANC uniforms, embraced him and told him she had lunch waiting at home.



Pleasant ghosts

A worker adjusts the beard of a paper mache ghost during preparations for the Sun Festival on the outlying island of Cheung Chau, Hong Kong on May 3. The festival is intended to placate ghosts and restless spirits on the annual four-day festival thus ensuring the safety of the residents. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Asia

**Shoplifting charges:** Authorities are pursuing a shoplifting case against a Japanese city official who was released within hours last month after Mayor Tom Bradley contacted police at Los Angeles international airport, it was reported in Los Angeles Saturday.

Peter Covette, an assistant supervisor in the city attorney's office, told the Los Angeles Times that police submitted the case to city prosecutors, who will decide whether to file misdemeanor charges.

On Thursday, one day after his arrest was made public, Yukio Umemura resigned as chairman of the Nagoya City Assembly, according to a Japanese press report.

Umemura, 59, was arrested April 14, suspected of taking two Gucci wallets and a leather purse valued at \$450 from a duty-free airport gift shop. (UPI)

**Jailed for raping daughter:** A Malaysian court has sentenced a former army major to 18 years in jail and ordered him caned for raping his 13-year-old daughter.

A lower court judge on Friday found 43-year-old Shaikh Walid, a father of three, guilty of raping his daughter at their home in December, 1988.

Judge Siti Saleha Sheikh Bakar said the stiff sentence was appropriate in view of the wide-

spread incidence of rape in predominantly Muslim country of 17 million people.

Shaikh's lawyer asked for the sentence to be reduced, saying Shaikh had served in the Malaysian army 16 years and was a first offender. (Reuter)

**Raise age for retirement:** Nearly half of the large Japanese companies believe that it would be possible to raise the age for retirement to 65 if the government raises the age for receiving welfare pension, it was revealed Saturday.

The Japan Research Institute surveyed 1,026 companies listed in the Tokyo exchange, with 26.4 per cent of them responding.

The survey was aimed at learning how companies would cope with the plan by the Health Ministry to raise the age at which insured people start receiving welfare pension to 65. (Kuna)

**22.8 million kids in Japan:** There were 22.8 million children under the age of 15 in Japan as of April 1, a decline of 760,000 from last year, the government announced Saturday.

The ratio to total population also fell 0.7 percentage points, to 18.5 per cent, the lowest in the postwar era.

According to figures released on Children's Day, there are 11.7 million boys and 11.1 million girls in Japan. Babies under one year old constitute the smallest group, while the most populous group is 14-year-olds.

Before World War Two, children accounted for a steady 36 per cent of the total population. Since that time, the ratio has steadily declined. (Kuna)

**Chimney collapse kills 24:** Twenty-four construction workers in southern China were killed when the 40-metre-tall (132-foot-tall) chimney they were working on collapsed, a local newspaper reported in Beijing.

Friday's Yangcheng evening news, seen in Beijing Saturday, said the chimney of a brick factory in Canton's (Guangzhou's) Kaiping county toppled because of an unstable foundation.

The paper said the only other worker at the site suffered minor injuries. (AP)

**Former world leaders to meet:** More than 40 former world leaders will gather in Seoul on May 23 for a meeting of the Inter Action Council, a group seeking to help solve international problems, government officials said Saturday.

Attendees will include former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt, former French president Giscard d'Estaing, former Japanese prime minister Takeo Fukuda and other dignitaries from some 30 countries, the officials said. (UPI)

**New evidence:** A controversial theory that dinosaurs were wiped out after a meteorite collided with Earth millions of years ago is backed by new evidence from Tibet, a Chinese newspaper said on Saturday.

The Guangming daily said scientists in the Gangba area of the Himalayan region had found the ashes of forests and high concentrations of platinum and iridium indicating a meteorite struck Earth 65 million years ago.

Their finds seemed to support theories of some American scientists that a wayward meteorite caused an explosion equivalent to 100 trillion tonnes of TNT, the newspaper said. (Reuter)

**Soviets no longer a threat:** In a major policy shift, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said he does not see the Soviet Union under President Mikhail Gorbachev as a threat to South-East Asia.

In a speech released Friday by the information department, Abu Hassan said he believes new Soviet policies foster a reduction of US and Soviet forces in the region.

"A reduction in force structure seems inevitable," he said in the speech, which was delivered Thursday. "Indeed, (US) Defence Secretary (Dick) Cheney has already indicated that a 10 per cent reduction of forces in the Pacific is in the offing."

### Latin America

**Pope to address businessmen:** Pope John Paul II, who arrives Sunday on his second visit to the world's most populated, Spanish-speaking country, will tell Mexican business leaders about "the morality of the business world," a church spokesman said.

"He will tell businessmen, those who have everything and sometimes more than they should, that material goods are meant for all, to make possible for man to live a decent life. He will speak to them about the morality of the business world," said Monsignor Genaro Alama, a spokesman for the conference of bishops said Friday.

The Pope also will have a special message, "not just one of compassion," Alama said, "for the poor and the neglected, those ignored by our materialistic society. He has much to tell them." (AP)

**Jailed editor freed:** The editor of a newspaper who discovered a key witness in the Washington murder of an opponent of Chile's former military government has been freed by the prosecutor who ordered him jailed.

Manuel Salazar, national editor of the La Epoca newspaper, was freed Thursday night after President Patricio Aylwin called on military prosecutor Raul Rozas to explain why Salazar had been held for 36 hours.

Salazar was jailed after he discovered the identity of a woman who is a key witness in the 1976 murder of Washington's embassy row of Orlando Letelier and had been questioned by Rozas before being jailed. (UPI)

**6 dead in Mexican wreck:** A passenger train wreck in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca has claimed at least six lives, the Mexican Red Cross said Friday.

The Red Cross originally gave a death toll of at least 40 dead in the Thursday night wreck. Ana Maria Tovar, director of the Red Cross in Oaxaca, the state capital, on Friday blamed the discrepancy on the magnitude of the wreck, the isolation of the mountainous area where the accident occurred and the fact that it was at night.

A release from the Mexican national railroad put the toll at seven dead and 20 injured. (AP)

## Turkish-Cypriot leftists challenge ruling party in elections

NICOSIA, May 5, (Reuter) — The Turkish-Cypriot National Unity Party (NUP) is facing its most serious challenge after 14 years of rule in northern Cyprus with three leftist opposition parties joining ranks against it in general elections tomorrow.

Political analysts said it was difficult to predict the outcome, but the opposition stood a good chance of gaining a majority in the 50-seat national assembly.

The parliamentary election in the break-away Turkish Republic of North Cyprus

(TRNC), recognised only by Ankara, follows by two weeks a presidential vote comfortably won by veteran Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

Denktaş, who distanced himself from domestic politics, gained wide support for his uncompromising stand in talks with leaders of the 600,000-strong Greek-Cypriot community to reunite the Mediterranean holiday island.

UN-sponsored unity talks broke down in February when Denktaş insisted on

self-determination for the 160,000 Turkish-Cypriots as a distinct community.

It was not clear, however, how his personal victory would influence the 100,000 eligible Turkish-Cypriot voters.

Cyprus has been split since Turkish troops occupied the northern third of the island in 1974 in response to a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece.

In contrast to the presidential poll, the second since the TRNC was declared in

1983, the parliamentary campaign has been fought over domestic issues, with the opposition accusing the ruling party of economic mismanagement and corruption.

Foreign Minister George Iacovou charged today that political expediency stopped his colleagues on the council of Europe from imposing sanctions on Turkey for its human rights violations in Cyprus, reported the official Cyprus News Agency.

Protecti



# Army clamps curfew on camps

Israeli troops wound 14 Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 5. (Agencies): Israeli troops in the occupied territories wounded at least 14 Palestinians today in clashes, Palestinian sources said.

At a Bethlehem vegetable market, soldiers shot Mahmoud Mohammed Al Shalal, 20, in the head, the sources said.

The army said a Bethlehem resident had been wounded by a rubber bullet and transferred to Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem.

In Gaza city, Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets and live ammunition to disperse about 100 masked youth throwing stones at military

vehicles, Palestinian sources said.

Hospital officials said seven youths had been wounded by gunfire and six beaten.

An army spokesperson confirmed clashes had occurred in Gaza city but said only three people were injured.

The Gaza seafont and Jabalya refugee camp, scene of bloody clashes on April 26, were under curfew.

After two days of clashes in the West Bank, the army clamped a curfew on Ramallah and several refugee camps near the town of Jenin.

## Jordan minister resigns

AMMAN, May 5. (AP): Planning Minister Awni Al Masri said today he has submitted his resignation from Prime Minister Mudar Badran's five-month-old cabinet. But Islamic Fundamentalists said they will not be part of the government reshuffle.

"I submitted my resignation to Mr. Badran some time ago," Masri told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

His comments followed reports that he will move to a post with a leading international organisation in oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

He declined to give the reason for his resignation, but noted: "Reports of me getting a job somewhere else are untrue."

Masri said he had discussed his resignation with Badran, but has not yet received an official response from the premier.

A senior Jordanian official, who did not wish to be identified, told reporters earlier this week that a major reshuffle in Badran's government was expected any day.

Other well-informed officials, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Badran will not replace Masri but assign his portfolio to another minister in the 24-member cabinet.

## Damage to Israel

# Rabin fears

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 5. (Reuters): Former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Israel today it could be heading for an extreme right-wing government that would set back peace and lose it foreign support.

"I believe a right-wing government can cause damage to Israel in the fields of the peace process, international relations, in its policies in the territories, the settlements," said Rabin, who wants to supplant Shimon Peres as leader of the Labour Party.

"Bearing in mind the dangers to Israel as the result of the creation of an extreme right-wing government I prefer to see a national unity government," Rabin said in an interview with Israel Radio.

But he would join a coalition only if Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir accepted a US proposal for Israel-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

Shamir, head of the right-wing Likud Party, rejected the plan in March and repeated criticism of it last week. His decision led to the collapse of the Likud-Labour coalition that included Rabin as defence minister.

Peres failed to gain support for a new Labour department, giving Shamir the chance to assemble a narrow rightist administration.

"The Likud and Prime Minister Shamir will try their best first and foremost to bring about the creation of a right-wing government," said Rabin, who was army chief during the 1967 Middle East war and prime minister from 1974 to 1977.

Rabin said that during his five and a half years as minister of defence he saw the army's control of the occupied territories to block activity such as expanding the Jewish settlement in Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank.

The army confined all 120,000 Arab residents of Nablus to their homes to protect 150 Jews who dedicated a scripture scroll at a shrine in the densely populated centre of the city on Thursday.

"It is only the first sign and a first small step towards an attempt to increase the presence of settlers in the middle of Nablus," Rabin said. "And I oppose settling Israelis in densely populated areas."

At least 70,000 Israelis have settled among the 1.75 million Palestinians who have been in revolt in the Gaza Strip and West Bank for 29 months.

Other countries, including the United States, term the settlements an obstacle to peace but construction has increased since Labour's withdrawal from government as it removed a constraint on Shamir.

Rabin, who wants to regain the leadership of Labour which he lost to Peres in 1977 after a financial scandal, said Peres should be replaced as party leader.

"After a long period, several elections, the time has arrived when the party will have a soul searching and decide who can lead the party in the next election with better chances to win," he said.

Paramilitary border police clashed with Palestinian youths in the Biblical town of Bethlehem today and seriously wounded a protest leader, the army said.

Also today, about 70 girl students in Bethlehem burned tyres, set up road blocks and waved the outlawed Palestinian flag in protest over the continued closure of universities and schools in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The army fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the protesters and three students were slightly wounded, Arab reporter said.

The army said it was checking the report.

The army lifted a curfew in Nablus and neighbouring refugee camps imposed on Thursday.

Violence flared in Bethlehem after 200 schoolgirls marched through town waving Palestinian flags and shouting nationalist slogans.

Israeli troops clamped today a sea blockade on Gaza Strip citing alleged security reasons, while four refugee camps in the strip remained under curfew, reports from Israel said.

Jabalya refugee camp was last night the scene of bloody clashes which left five Palestinians seriously injured.

In north West Bank, curfew remained imposed for the third day on Nablus city and nearby refugee camps and villages.

The Israeli authorities are still imposing a curfew today on six villages while troops continued intensifying their deployment in the environs of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron cities.

Troops disguised in civilian clothes entered a Palestinian refugee camp yesterday and captured an Arab fugitive wanted in the murder of at least six fellow Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities, Arab reports said.

The army confirmed its soldiers shot and seriously wounded Nasser Muhammad, Abu Ahmad, 19, when he tried to escape arrest in the Al-Amari refugee camp in the occupied West Bank.

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# Perjurer acquitted

Figure in Iran-Contra affair

PORTLAND, Oregon, May 5. (Reuters): A jury yesterday acquitted of perjury a US businessman who contended that the Reagan-Bush campaign in 1980 tried to delay the release of 52 American hostages in Iran until after the presidential election.

Richard Brenneke, who says he worked for the Central Intelligence Agency during the 1970s and was doing consulting work for the CIA in 1980, was accused of lying to a judge in Denver, Colorado, during a bank fraud trial two years ago.

Brenneke was only involved in the fraud trial as a witness on behalf of a friend charged with a bank fraud. Brenneke had told the Denver judge that aides of the campaign to elect Ronald Reagan as president and George Bush as vice-president negotiated secretly in Paris with Iran to delay the release of the hostages until after the 1980 presidential election.

The release of hostages during the campaign could have boosted the re-election prospects of President Jimmy Carter. During a 10-day trial, federal prosecutors insisted that no secret meetings in Paris were held with the Iranian government and that 48-year-old Brenneke, a Portland resident, never worked for the CIA.

Richard Muller, Brenneke's attorney, told reporters after the verdict that the jury had believed his client. "The motives for bringing the trial were political," he said.

At the time, Brenneke was appearing as a character witness for Denver gold dealer Heinrich Rupp, whom Brenneke said he met in 1977 when they worked together in Southeast Asia for a CIA proprietary, Air America.

Rupp was convicted of bank fraud and is serving a 41-year prison term.

Brenneke told the Denver court that he and Rupp in October 1980 helped arrange clandestine meetings involving the hostage crisis, and that Rupp flew George Bush, then a candidate for vice-president, to Paris for the meetings.

Brenneke told of three hostage meetings at two Paris hotels. But he testified Thursday that he did not actually see Bush in Paris.

Fifty-two American hostages, seized Nov 4, 1979 at the US Embassy in Tehran, were released Jan 20, 1981, the day President Reagan was sworn in.

Prosecutors described Brenneke as a rejected CIA applicant who operated on the fringes, trying to become a broker of arms and intelligence and lying about his exploits. But the 13-member jury, after deliberating for five hours, said it believed Brenneke's story.

Defence lawyer Michael Scott said the verdict did not mean that witnesses in the case such as Donald P. Gregg, the US ambassador to South Korea, had lied. Nor does it mean that Bush was in Paris for the alleged meetings, Scott said.

The verdict simply "means that the jury did not find my client guilty," Scott said.

Outside the courtroom, a smiling Brenneke said, "we told the truth, we told the truth all along and, by God, it was believed."

In Washington, DC, Stephen Hart, deputy White House press secretary, declined any comment on the case. Brenneke has claimed in numerous media interviews to have detailed knowledge about aspects of the Iran-Contra arms scandal.

In Iran-Contra, four men — including former president Reagan's former national security adviser John M. Poindexter — were accused of defrauding the government by diverting money from the secret sale of weapons to Iran to the Nicaraguan Contras at a time when US aid to the rebels was banned.

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The verdict simply "means that the jury did not find my client guilty," Scott said.

Outside the courtroom, a smiling Brenneke said, "we told the truth, we told the truth all along and, by God, it was believed."

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# Sudan



# Drug addiction in youth attributed to ill-breeding

## 'Beware of drugs' study prepared

FAMILY discords, ill-breeding and lack of self-motivation have been attributed among the leading factors contributing to drug addiction among youth in Kuwait, according to a study published by the Educational Research Centre of the Ministry of Education entitled

"Beware of Drugs".

The study which was prepared by three researchers at the centre called for setting up a preventive scheme to obviate the perils of drug addiction and halt the spread of this deadly menace.

The study pointed out that the increas-

ing rate of divorce has played a significant role in spreading this vice among Kuwaiti juveniles. Additionally, it cited a lack of parental supervision unchaperoned travel of youth and unlimited funds without accountability as being directly responsible for the

increase in the use of drugs among youth.

The study underscored the importance of combatting this menace through the offices of the state's different authorities. It highlighted the vital role that educational institutions could play in this respect.

The study prepared in co-operation with the Criminal Intelligence Department (CID) and Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior within the centre's contribution in protecting youth from the dire consequences of indulging in drugs.

# KU re-thinks internal charter

## Students critical

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY is embarking on a comprehensive study of its internal charter in an attempt to introduce improvements benefiting students, KU's rector, Dr Shuaib A. Shuaib said last week.

The official said that KU is attaching utmost attention to this study, which is supervised by a technical team. The objective is to redress any mistakes in the current system, by undertaking a careful review and alternatives submitted for effective decisions and implementation.

Commenting on some of the changes that might be adopted, the official said that the university is favourably inclined to approve a proposal to extend the enrolment period to two additional terms, instead of one term over the original four-year period.

Shuaib added that KU might eliminate descriptive grade classification and rely on the point system with specifying an honorary degree, if achieved by a student.

He went on to say that academic warnings would be based in the future on cumulative average rather than the student's average in his or her academic major. Shuaib said that the new charter should be announced after the deans committee has reviewed and endorsed it, but declined to give any specific date for ending the study.

In a related development, the deputy chairman of Kuwait Students Union, university branch, Khalaf Al Qashaan criticised the amendments of the academic charter of the university as stipulated in 1986.

Commenting, he said, that the amendments as formulated by a special committee, provide for a student to receive a warning at the end of the first term, as opposed to the original charter which cited the second term-end as the timing for the issuance of such warnings. He added: "The punitive level as per the amendments made by the committee are identical to those which are stipulated in the original charter and have all along been opposed by the students." Further, he said that if this is not redressed, it will lead to an increase of students who would find their names added to the warning list.

Highlighting his recommendations for arriving at an acceptable formula, Qashaan said that students who complete less than 30 credit hours should get at least an average of 1.67 points to escape receiving warnings. Those who finish over 30 credit hours should be allocated two points.

Continuing, he said that there are 1,139 students at the university who have less than 1.67 points and these represent 39.7 per cent of the total number of students. He disclosed that over 60 per cent of Kuwaiti students in the university have been entered in the warning list and are expected to be dismissed.

According to the existing charter, he said that students who receive warnings at the end of the first term face dismissal if they fail to remove the warning during the next term. He called on all officials to intervene to ensure the future of students.

Meetings and dialogues between the administration and the union have failed to convince the administration to respond to our fair demands, Qashaan said. He added that the Kuwaiti Students Union is obliged to consider the charter as the "bone of contention" for deserving relations with the administration of the university. If no amicable solution is arrived at, it will compel the union to stimulate students and use other means to restore rights, he added.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the union, has invited students to attend the extraordinary general assembly of the union to discuss this issue. The meeting will be held today at the Faculty of Law in Shuaib.

On the same issue, a local daily reported at a number of Kuwaiti students at the university have attacked the amendments of the academic charter as instituted in 1986. They lauded the efforts of the students union at arriving on an amicable solution with the administration of the university.

Students called on the union to offer an objective discussion on this question during the extraordinary meeting of the general assembly. However, another section of students suggested going on strike to put pressure on the university to adopt more flexible amendments to the charter and recommended that the administration should extend more consideration to students who receive warnings to avoid being dismissed. They further criticised the administration for its passive stand and response to the demands of the majority of students and disclosed that over 3,500 students in the university, as per the present charter, face dismissal.

## CSC approval awaited

# University salaries may be revised

THE RECTOR of Kuwait University, Dr Shuaib Abdullah was quoted as saying that the university is studying the possibility of revising salaries of teaching staff. However, he added that any increase will only come into force after the approval of the Civil Service Council.

Speaking on the issue in an interview with a local daily, the official categorically denied that the university intends to increase the present level of rent allowances.

The official said that his department had rented about 1,046 housing units in different areas and commented that the university will vacate old rented buildings. He disclosed that last year the university spent KD 826,172

for the purchase of furniture to furnish these apartments.

Meanwhile, the official described relations between the teaching staff commission and the university administration as co-operative and said that the university had started studying the proposals submitted by the commission. These proposals will be referred to the relative councils of the university so as to take necessary action, Abdullah said.

In a related development, the director of furnishing and housing department at Kuwait University, Dr Sultan Al Sultan said that the department will depend on local contractors and suppliers for implementing projects in the future.

# Entry visas at border points

IMMIGRATION officials at Kuwait's points of entry have been authorised to issue visit visas to owners of companies, businessmen, delegations, touristic groups and relatives of expatriates living in Kuwait, according to a senior immigration official.

The administration has issued these instructions, according to the director-general of the Public Immigration Administration Col Ahmed Al Wohaib to facilitate entry in emergency cases without the need to refer such cases to the administration.

The official said that the Ministry of Interior has begun issuing entry visas valid for three, six months and one year to businessmen, representatives of companies and merchants who need to visit on a continual basis.

## Tourists

Additionally, he said that the administration notified the Touristic Enterprises Company of its no-objection to issue visit permits for touristic groups, although this category is not mentioned in the residence law. The administration will deal with this category as commercially related or a special visit category.

Visit cards are issued to any person, provided the applicant meets normal conditions, Wohaib said.

# Teachers dismissal issue not settled yet

THE Ministry of Education has as yet not settled the dismissal issue of some teachers who will be made redundant, a local daily quoted an official source at the Ministry of Education as saying.

The official who was commenting on press news about the dismissal of 500 teachers, said that although this figure has not been defined, the dismissal by the end of the academic year was considered. He clarified that the number of employees to be terminated will be determined in the light of needs which had been defined according to the ministry budget.

He pointed out that the draft budget of the ministry is still under preparation and accordingly any forecasting in respect of the employees to be terminated could be considered as just an assessment.

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that the services of 400 teachers, whose contracts will expire by the end of the current academic year will be terminated.



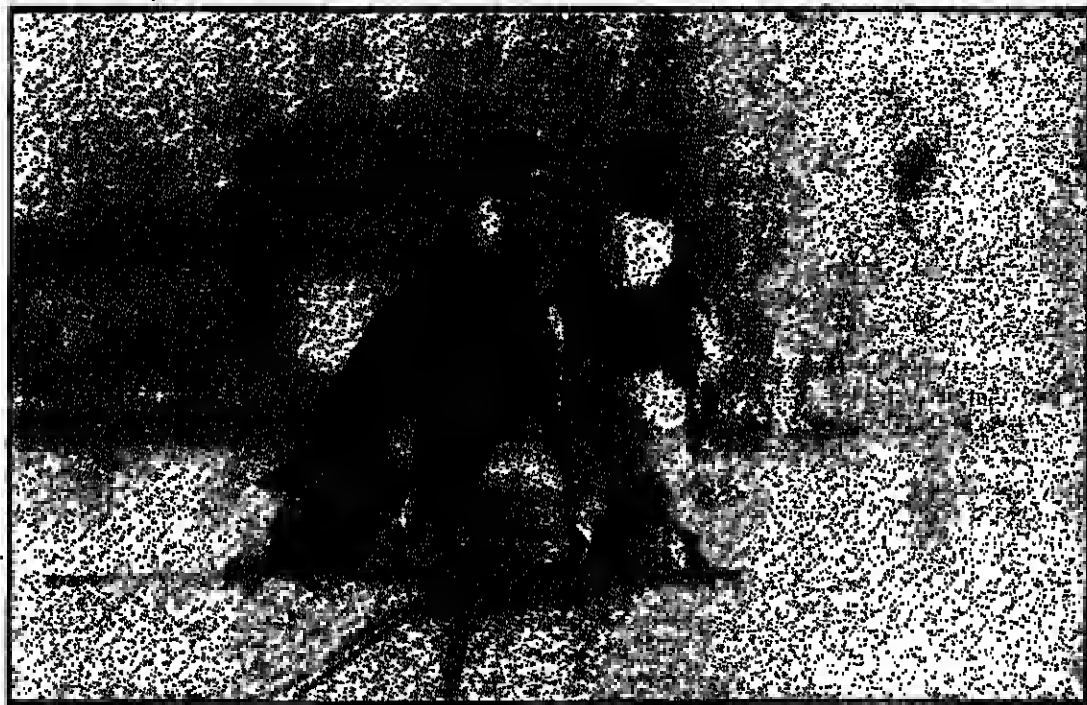
Interesting hobby

Pigeons have become an interesting hobby for many people and in addition provides a certain level of income by selling young pigeons whose birth rate is high and to highlight this issue, a local daily interviewed a number of pigeon lovers.

Ahmed Safi said that he was attracted to this hobby by his father who was keen on keeping various types of pigeons and consequently, he got a lot of information about various species. He said that he began his hobby by purchasing three pigeons and this number rapidly multiplied. Exchanging data with other pigeon fans, he said that he realised that pigeons are prone to infection, particularly during the summer season.

He said that during the last ten years of involvement with pigeons, his experience has greatly increased and he can judge and select the best kinds. He said that the best species is "Abu Fouta" which fetches a price of between KD 30 to 50 per pair.

Safi complained that his pigeons had been stolen on several occasions and though he complained to the local police stations, he said that they paid no heed as they claimed such cases were not important.



## From the courts

# Building guard murder case opens

THE CRIMINAL Court holds its first session today to examine a case in which an Egyptian national is indicted of the premeditated murder of his fellow countryman who was employed as a building guard.

The story began when a resident in a building in the Abu Halifa area discovered the body of the guard with numerous stab wounds.

Investigative authorities, were assisted in their efforts by another guard of a neighbouring building. He mentioned that a friend had been frequently seen with the victim on several occasions and that the man lived in Shaab. He further claimed that the victim had arranged with the man to buy a piece of land in Egypt.

When a security officer located the man, the accused lost his nerve and immediately admitted to the crime. Lab tests revealed blood stains on the dishdasha, pants and underwear, recently washed by the accused.

Under investigation he told police that he used to gamble with the victim who was an old friend of his and they also shared prostitutes.

On the night of the incident he went to the dead man's room with a knife hidden under his clothes after he learnt from a telephone call by the victim that he had a woman for pleasure.

He added that he had sex with the woman after the victim had done the same and then they spent the night gambling with hundreds of dinars, after the woman had left.

He said: "I managed to win KD 500 from him which he kept as the down-payment for the land he offered to sell me in Egypt, but he would not let me leave until I agreed to play on, but I refused and then he insulted me by saying that my wife was a fallen woman."

He added: "This infuriated me and I withdrew the knife that I kept on me and stabbed him while he lay on his bed, but the victim managed to snatch the knife from my hand."

"I then fetched another knife from the kitchen and finished him off," the accused said.

THE CRIMINAL Court has completed its deliberations into the case of a man identified as K.A. (25 years of age) who has been accused of suffocating his 18-

year-old wife (R.A.) who had been married to the accused for only four months.

Sentencing has been scheduled for Monday.

The court was told that the defendant wanted to have intercourse with the victim on the day of the crime, but the latter refused claiming that she was unwell. However, around 4.00 am, the accused repeated his demand and when refused, he strangled her with his bare hands.

He tried to escape by catching a bus to Abdali border centre, but was surprised to see police awaiting his arrival.

It transpired that the mother of the victim knocked on the bedroom of her daughter just at dawn and finding no response, broke down the door. Seeing her daughter dead, she notified the police who were prompt to act.

THE CRIMINAL Court has sentenced a woman to three years in jail but gave her the option of paying a fine of KD 100 to suspend the sentence.

The court heard that the woman had bought KD 3,390 worth of gold from a local goldsmith and offered to sell him a building which she claimed was in her possession. The understanding was that the value of the gold will be settled as part of the price of the building. As an assurance, she gave him a copy of deed of proprietorship and a copy of her ID card.

He then accompanied her to the building site to examine it before arranging for the completion of the selling procedure through a local real estate agent.

The buyer went to the address supplied on the ID card to get the original copies of the deed and ID card and discovered that they belonged to a different woman.

Investigations revealed that the woman had stolen the deed and copy of the identity card of the real owner to commit the act of fraud and obtain the gold, which she had already sold and settled her so-called personal debt.

THE CRIMINAL Court sentenced an accused identified as Nashaya to three years rigorous imprisonment in absentia on charge of embezzlement. The court heard that defendant was working in a travel company, and had pocketed the proceeds of the sale of 126 air tickets and left the company.

The crime was discovered when some airlines urged the company to pay the costs of the issued tickets. The director of the company notified police and accused the defendant of embezzlement and forging receipts.

THE CID men at Salmiya police centre arrested a dangerous criminal on charge of trading in narcotics identified as S.A. three days ago. The investigations of CID men showed that the criminal was trading in narcotics in the Salmiya area. The CID officer agreed with a secret agent to buy a big quantity of hashish from the defendant.

The agent was given marked police banknotes which were recovered from the accused immediately the transactions were completed.

A search of the defendant's premises revealed a large quantity of hashish.

THE Court of Misdemeanours sentenced one Salmaan to two months rigorous imprisonment for being drunk and for threatening to explode Shuaiba Industrial Area. The court sentenced him to one month in jail on the first charge and another month for the second.

But the defendant appealed the sentence before the Court of Appeal that changed the sentence to 15 days imprisonment for each charge. Later the Cassation Court acquitted the defendant of charge of threatening to explode Shuaiba area claiming that the defendant did not intend to carry out his threat and said it only to defend himself. The court also decided to suspend sentence of 15 days imprisonment for being drunk to three years probation on the undertaking that the defendant submitted a pledge of good conduct.

SECURITYMEN at the Coast Guards Department have arrested a number of infiltrators attempting to sneak into the country.

The hunt was made inside Kuwait's territorial waters as a small boat carrying eight people sailing close to Kubbar Island raised the suspicions of a passing patrol.

The men were referred to the competent security authorities.

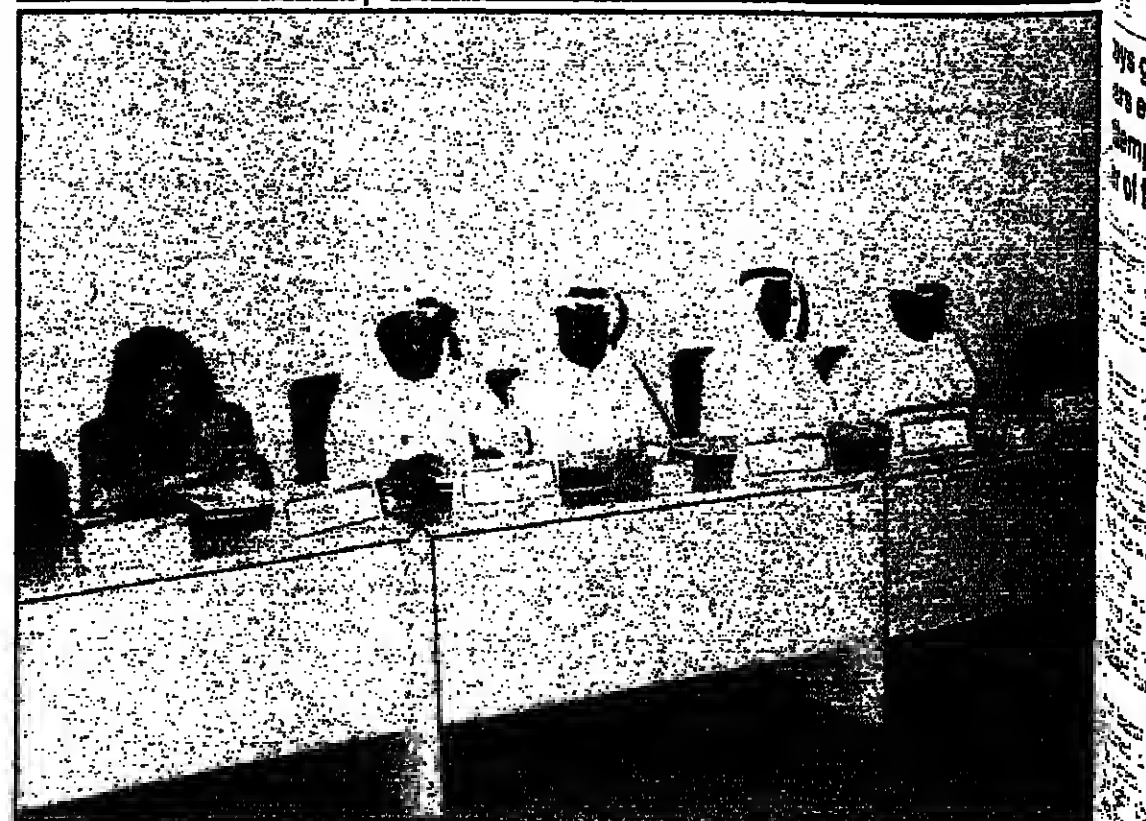
THE Court of Misdemeanours sentenced a man to one year imprisonment

with hard labour for being caught drunk in a public place. The court was told that two securitymen arrested the man in Farwaniya when he found him scolding and insulting passersby in the street. He told them he was drunk. The man confessed in the court he was drunk and it was found that he had been caught in similar cases before. For that the court sentenced him to one year imprisonment.

THE Traffic Court fined a driver KD 125 and ordered the withdrawal of his driving licence for six months for breaking the red traffic light and knocking down a pedestrian who was crossing the road. The court was told that the driver broke the red traffic light and hit a man who was crossing to the other side of the road. But the injuries inflicted on the man were simple ones. The driver denied that he broke the red traffic light but confessed he was speeding and that he hit the man.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man in absentia to life imprisonment with hard labour and ordered his deportation from the country for murdering his brother-in-law. The court also sentenced the accused's father to six months imprisonment and acquitted his sister, the wife of the deceased. The court was told that the deceased identified as Hasan was murdered in the Friday market. A man driving his car near the market saw a gathering of people and from among them stood Hasan with the knife still in his body. The driver took him to Kheitan medical centre and on the way Hasan told the driver that it was his brother-in-law who stabbed him.

On further investigation, the court learnt that the deceased was murdered for refusing to divorce his wife, the sister of the murderer. Hasan went to her father asking to marry her but the father refused. But he made an agreement with her brother, the murderer, and all went to Iraq where Hasan married her. On returning to Kuwait, the father threatened Hasan with murder if he did not divorce his daughter. Hasan refused. The court was told that the father instigated his son Munadel, the murderer, to kill Hasan and he did. After that he immediately fled away to Iraq. The court issued the verdict on Munadel in absentia.



Computer course

Dean of the Technological Studies College Dr Hassan Al Tayeb inaugurated recently an advanced training course on programming organised by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training for a number of government employees. The course will continue till June 3. The course aims at training the participants on design and execution of computer programmes.



# Regular aid provided to needy: Salem

## Adopt-a-family scheme begun

By Dawzi Al Tamomi

THE chairman of the Zakat and Handout Committee at the Kuwait Society for the Revival of Islamic Heritage Abdul Jabbar Salem said that the Clothing of the Needy project implemented at home is intended, among other things, to enable the charity-giver to follow up the process of distributing handouts to qualified beneficiaries.

He told Al Seyassah that the donor, by allowing for a monthly deduction of his pay as handout, will be able to appreciate

the tangible results of his financial support of the needy family, under this project, which provides regular aid to poor families.

### Factors

Salem said that the committee decided over a series of meetings to specify KD30 and KD50 as regular monthly payment by donors wishing to provide regular aid to needy families, and that the donor will be provided with periodical reports highlighting the improvement curve of the family he is supporting, without identifying this family.

He said that on certain occasions the committee allocates a number of monthly deductions by different donors for one family, which require greater financial help due to social and economic factors.

He pointed out that a total of 597 needy families is currently on the committee's list for regular monthly aid, and the total number of beneficiaries (among orphans) is 3,125, while more than 3,176 people receive irregular monthly aid.

He said that the eight other sub-committees operating under the committee are involved in raising money, handouts and

donations from various locations in the country to send to Muslims in dire straits everywhere in the world.

He added that these committees are also in charge of collecting sacrificial meat for distribution among the needy and the residents of disaster areas anywhere in the world.

He expressed satisfaction with the level of enthusiasm and commitment exhibited by charity-givers and the performance of the sub-committee members to collect and distribute donations to the needy in and outside Kuwait.

# Grant women the vote: Behbehani

## Representation for larger segment

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

A PROMINENT Kuwaiti political analyst has urged the authorities to grant voting rights to women as they are a productive sector of the society.

Kuwait University political analyst Dr Hashem Behbehani said the authorities "should give the right of vote to women as they are productive and (have been) contributing constructively to build society."

About one third of the total Kuwaiti male population is eligible to vote in elections. Kuwaitis comprise 28 per cent of the population. If women can participate in the political process, the interim council members would represent a larger segment of society.

Oxford-educated Dr Behbehani, who has written extensively on Kuwaiti and Arab politics, said there was also a need to give suffrage to naturalised Kuwaitis, whom he believes are now a part of the society.

"I think, by now, naturalised Kuwaitis should have their say; they are Kuwaitis. But the problem with this has nothing to do with the executive branch; the legislators did not accept this opinion of unifying Kuwait."

He believes future legislators must be progressive and be able to look beyond personal interests.

### Continuation

He said the interim council announced by HH the Amir on April 22 is a "continuation of the parliamentary system in Kuwait."

In the background of the unstable regional situation, "it was too much to ask (the government) to act according to the wishes of certain former deputies," he said.

He described the interim council as a "proposal to satisfy all Kuwaitis — those who are pro-parliamentary and those who are against the parliamentary system."

### Adjustments

"This is a new system; we, in Kuwait, have to adjust to our situation; there were mistakes done before; now it's about time we sit and talk about these mistakes; it may take long but this is a range of political life," he said.

In the body politic of Kuwait



Behbehani... beyond personal interests

the role of the Amir as the "Father of the Nation" and the security and stability of the country cannot be ignored, he explained. The interim council, he said, gives Kuwait "some form of democracy" while respecting its political ideals.

Commenting on the failure of previous parliamentary experiments, he said the elected members were not "up to the standard" from the point of view of the Kuwaiti personality.

### Mistakes

In this context, he said "The Kuwaiti executive branch is more progressive than the legislative branch."

Other "mistakes" included the practice by some former parliamentarians who considered "their personalised experience as the ultimate criterion for decision making". As Kuwait is a family based society, certain MPs put the interest of family before state and parliamentarians did not

have sufficient political orientation.

He said it is imperative that future members of the interim council are eligible to "tackle issues that are important to the future of Kuwait" and can "perceive the agony of the country to find solutions".

New parliamentarians cannot afford to be "sectarian, regional or (have) one-track political minds," he said.

The electorate has to bear the responsibility of being "eclectic" in choosing the members of the council.

He said the interim council would have to focus on one vital issue: the question of "needy families", who require a place in the social fabric to express their opinion.

The four-year duration, he said, was much needed. "Kuwaiti blood needs to be rejuvenated. In the coming four years, we can discuss where we are and where we will be going in the future."

## GCC schools

# Maths courses may be unified

THE director of the GCC Arab Educational Research Centre Mohammed Abdullah Al Sane has said that the centre has prepared a special study highlighting the possibility of unifying and developing maths courses at GCC secondary schools.

He told a local daily that the study shed light on the obstacles facing the process which included the multiplicity and great difference among the existing courses, the difference among the academic plans enforced in each country, and variance in maths classes scheduling systems.

Sane said that other problems included the need to cater for talented students while keeping low-performing students located in high-density classrooms, in mind never forgetting the ability of the teacher and the time and effort needed to accommodate for both types of students.

He further added that the study recommended ways of overcoming the existing problems one of which is to unify courses applied in the general educational system, in other words the two-term system as opposed to the credit-hour system.

He added that according to the study the only way to sort out the problems resulting from the difference of teaching systems is to attempt to unify these plans as much as possible or eliminate the difference factors and retain the points shared.

He also said that the attention to talented and low-performing students expressed through the publication of manuals for each stage containing additional reading material intended to deepen, certain important concepts meant for talented students and recommending remedial courses for low-performing students and ways to improve their performance.

## UAE-Algerian

ABU DHABI, May 5, (Kuna): The third meeting for the United Arab Emirates-Algeria joint commission opened here today and will be co-chaired by the two countries' economy ministers.

The Algerian Minister Ghazi Haydous and UAE Sayf Al-Jarwan will discuss bilateral co-operation and means of boosting it through a number of proposals presented to the commission by the two sides.

The Algerian minister arrived here last night on an official four-day visit to UAE.

# 4 boys get 7 years each for attempted murder of friend

THE Criminal Court sentenced four teenagers to seven years each in jail with hard labour for the attempted premeditated murder of their colleague.

The ugly crime took place in the mosque, as the victim was performing his Asr prayers, the criminals charged at him stabbing him with blades, screwdrivers and hitting him with the wooden X-shaped hook stands. Intervention of worshippers helped to stop the criminals from finishing the victim off and hospitalised him just in time.

The court learnt that the criminals nursed a rancour against the victim, aged 17, following a fight that broke out between him and one of the criminals the day before over the mid-term exam results posted on the school notice board.

The court reportedly reduced its sentence to seven years in jail after the victim had dropped the case.



Lebanon aid

A convoy of trucks loaded with the second batch of Kuwaiti relief materials ordered by His Highness the Amir to Lebanon left yesterday for that country.

The 40-truck convoy includes foodstuffs, medicine and medical equipment. The first batch was headed to concerned Lebanese authorities before Eid Al Fitr and the third batch will be dispatched within the coming two weeks.

The diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier supervises the transport and delivery of those materials to the concerned Lebanese authorities.

## Agro-production societies

# Substantial contribution to food security strategy

THE director of the co-operation department at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry Mohammad Al Kandari has said that the agricultural co-operative structure in Kuwait contains four societies. Two agro-production societies are located in Wafra and Abdali, and two animal production societies, one for poultry keepers and the other for animal resources is also in these areas.

He told a local daily that these societies operate under the umbrella of the Kuwait Union for Co-operative Agro-production Societies, and have so far contributed to different economic and social activities and catered substantially to the implementation of the local food security strategy.

He said that the agro-production societies have contributed largely to increasing the number of plant production farms from 293 in 1980 to 945 in 1988, and helped raise the number of animal production farms from 150 in 1988 to 2,772 in 1988.

Kandari pointed out that these societies contribute substantially to the implementation of the local food security strategy which resulted in meeting 57 per cent of the local demand for table eggs, 46.5 per cent of broiler chickens, 11.3 per cent mutton, 35.2 per cent fresh milk, 9.1 per cent beef, 10 per cent dairy products, 49 per cent tomatoes, 58 per cent cucumber, 41 per cent other fresh vegetables and 32 per cent of total need for vegetables and 24 per cent dry fodder and 74

per cent green fodder.

He said that the agro-production society runs 96 different branches as marketing sites for member products, and provided various services to members and workers at farms.

Kandari pointed out that the Wafra society runs 25 branches, Abdali 20 branches, poultry keepers' 22 branches, animal resources 29 branches, besides setting up a number of central markets in Wafra and Abdali to meet the needs of the members and workers for foodstuffs and other consumer commodities.

He further added that the production societies provided machines, equipment and other facilities, including seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to support agricultural, animal production and poultry projects for places within the areas.

These societies provided maintenance and repair services to agricultural equipment on working sites in co-ordination and co-operation with the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Kandari said.

He also said that these societies provided fodder for poultry raisers and animal keepers as well as making available required transport means from farms to marketing centres. The Co-operative Savings Society's primary function is to increase the economic potentials of societies and enable them to round up their resources in economic ventures able to meet their requirements and needs, Kandari concluded.

Meanwhile, a study submitted to the Arab Union of Food Industries has said that the total amount of sheep and goat-related food industries during the period from 1979-1981 is estimated at about 3,015,000 tons, and that it increased to 3,487,000 tons in 1986.

The report said that the production in Sudan was highest reaching 30 per cent, while Syria came next at 23 per cent with a total output of 368,000 tons. The amount increased to 1,892,000 tons in the Sudan during 1986, at 31.7 per cent and to 23.8 per cent in Syria.

The report also pointed out that the goat milk industries during the period from 1973 to 1981 estimated at 1,412,000 tons increased to 1,595,000 tons in 1986, and Sudan came first at 33 per cent while Somalia came next at 20 per cent during the period from 1978-1981-1986 and the percentage varied in the remaining Arab countries.

The report stressed that the variation between the total number of animal heads and the output volume of related industries is ascribable to factors covering the difference of animal species, specifications of the produce, size of the animal and animal productivity season.

The report said that the nutritional value of sheep and goat related dairy products was higher than in the cow dairy products, which is why cheese, yoghurt and other dairy products produced from goat and sheep milk.

# India Festival winners

Following are the prize winners of the lucky draw held on 4-5-1990 at Kazma Stadium in connection with India Festival.

1. Rozi Disoza
2. Yakub Ibrahim Shaik
3. Sheikh Nazir Shaikh Ismail
4. A. Shahul Hameed
5. A. Fakir Mohammed
6. Suhair Al Roshaid
7. Iona M. Fernandes
8. Antonia Menezes
9. Lissy
10. Parinita Tandon
11. G. Ganeswara Rao
12. Kurian Abraham
13. Maloor Kadavan Sanad-hanan
14. G. Thomas
15. R.C. Kalasi
16. B.M. Amanna
17. Joseph L. Fernandes
18. Shreethi Miriam George
19. Mohamed Adam Mohamed Ibrahim
20. Inscia Anthony Correia
21. Jashinder Singh (waiting list)
22. Bahu Kaher (waiting list)
23. Naeam Abdal (waiting list)
24. Somanathan C.N. (Circus coupons).

Prize winners may please contact on Tel. No. 2456293/2456294 with their claim coupon and identification to claim their prize.

# Three held for rape

SECURITY authorities are currently investigating the case of a young video shop assistant who has been raped by three men living in the governorate of Hawally.

The story began when one of the criminals called the girl and told her that the video tapes he had hired from her shop were not showing clearly on his TV set and that he wanted her to come over and check for herself, and bring him another collection of tapes.

The girl innocently went over to the house and when the door was opened she was pushed inside violently and raped by three men, whose ages are 42, 36 and 24.

When the crime was over, the victim told her family what had happened and her father reported the incident to the police station in Nuzra. A police squad immediately went over to the address given by the victim and picked up all three criminals.

Meanwhile, the once-virgin victim has been referred for forensic examination, while the criminals continue to be questioned before referral to the public prosecution.

# Istimara investigations

ONGOING investigations by the Kuwait Public Prosecution Office into the recent "istimara bribery case" have indicted an officer who holds the rank of colonel in the traffic department, along with the main defendant identified as Abu Zuhair, a Jordanian national and 68 other defendants.

Disclosing this information, a local daily disclosed that new developments have revealed the involvement of a new major defendant identified as Abu Emad, alias of Jordanian nationality.

The daily said that Abu Zuhair arranged with people wanting to have istimaras and introduced them to Abu Emad who in turn arranged for an appointment with the colonel.

During the course of the interview, the colonel displayed total ignorance of any bribe, but indicated that he was giving them the istimara on humanitarian grounds.

Bribes paid by the applicants were distributed between the three accused, with the lion's share going to the colonel. The daily said that the colonel's share was paid to him at his private driving school identified as Al Aqsa School in the Al Surra area.

# Palestinian health to be discussed at WHA

GENEVA, May 5, (Kuna): Among the items to be considered by the forty-third World Health Assembly (WHA) which opens in Geneva at noon on Monday, May 7, 1990, will be health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories and membership of the state of Palestine to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The opening session of the health assembly, which will be attended by some 1,200 delegates representing the 167 member states of WHO, will be presided over by the president of the forty-second WHA, Professor Chen Minzhang, Minister of Public Health of China.

The question of Palestine's membership to WHO has been faced by bitter opposition from the United States, which has threatened to withdraw from WHO if that state is admitted as a full member. Palestine argues that it is only claiming its rights as defined in the constitution of WHO.

The issue dominated deliberations of the 1989 session of WHA, and amid much disagreement and in-fighting it was decided to defer consideration of the item for one year.

WHA will also review the biennial report of the director-general on the work of WHO during the period 1988-89, in which he has placed particular emphasis on the relationship between the world economy and health development, the environment and health, nutrition, and the relationship between the control of various diseases of public health consequence and the overall health delivery system.

### Agenda

Other items of consideration on the agenda include: a progress report on the global strategy for the prevention and control of Aids, and a similar report on research and transfer of technology to national health services within the context of the special programme for research and training on tropical diseases.

The assembly will also review the safe disposal of hazardous wastes, the work of the action programme on essential drugs, and strengthening of technical and economic support to countries facing serious economic constraints.

Further, WHA will consider collaboration within the United Nations system including an item proposed by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to consider the question of mines laid during wartime and their adverse effects on health and people.

# New design for Kuwaiti passports

THE ad hoc committee formed several months back by the Ministry of the Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah under the chairmanship of the assistant under-secretary for nationality and travel document affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al Khaled Al Sabah is about to finish laying down the final specifications for the proposed new Kuwaiti passport which will replace the existing design.

A local daily, quoting government sources, said that the committee has initially approved the recommended design-format of the proposed new passport which was prepared in line with international standards. The new format is intended to minimise the chances of forgery or tampering with its details.

The paper learnt that the new passport is expected to be approved by the relevant senior government officials in early October.

The new passport is reportedly blue in colour, smaller in size, with more pages in different colours and the Kuwaiti national emblem is printed on each page.

# Fahaheel tops with 34 candidates

(Continued from Page 1)

sixth day:

**1st constituency — Sharq**  
Khaled Ibrahim Al Radi  
Abdul Hameed Mohammed Bou Albasar

**4th constituency — Da'ya**  
Abdul Rahman Nuh Al Mishal

**6th constituency — Faiha**  
Fouzi Khaled Al Essa  
Saleh Hmoud Al Shaeji  
Hussain Naser Al Wnhaib

**8th constituency — Hawalli**  
Kamel Abdullah Al Saleh  
Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al Gah-tani  
Mohamed Rashed Al Hifeid

**9th constituency — Rowda**  
Moubarak Jasser Al Ayaf  
Rashed Ali Bou Jara  
Fahed Saleh Boudali

**10th constituency — Adailiya**  
Yusef Saleh Al Najdi  
Hussain Rashed Al Gais

**12th constituency — Salmiya**

Rashed Awad Al Jnuwaisiri

**13th constituency — Rumaythiya**  
Jassem Mohamed Gabazard  
Othman Sayed Al Sayed Omar  
Fadel Mohamed Al Shatti

**15th constituency — Farwaniya**  
Jassar Garceb Al Rasheedi  
Khaled Fahel Al Balool

**16th constituency — Omariya**  
Fahed Khalaf Al Allaj  
Sarak Mohammed Al Barrak

**17th constituency — Julaib Al Shiyoookh**  
Mohamed Khalaf Imhaimil

**19th constituency — New Jahra**  
Ali Farraj Al Shimari  
Naser Saad Al Rasheedi  
Saif Fahed Al Azemi

**20th constituency — Jahra**  
Saleem Znaifir Al Ajmi  
Saleem Zaman Al Sulaimani  
Hammad Abdul Munser Al Ajmi  
Hadi Mohamed Al Inzai

**21st constituency — Ahmadi**

Saad Fahed Al Bous  
Mohamed Hammad Al Rasheedi

**22nd constituency — Riqqa**  
Eid Mohamed Al Ajmi  
Fahed Jad'an Al Azemi  
Rashed Bla'q Al Azemi  
Hameedi Abdullaef Al Daihani

**23rd constituency — Sabahiya**  
Khalaf Rifa'i Al Azemi  
Nayef Mohamed Abu Hamada  
Hayef Ayed Al Maimouni  
Nasser Rifa'i Al Dousari  
Mishel Moubarak Al Mihjan  
Salman Zaid Al Azemi

**24th constituency — Fahaheel**

Ayed Sanadi Al Rasheedi  
Ali Thagel Al Hajiri  
Turki Mohamed Al Azemi  
Hadi Barak Al Dousari  
Naser Bjad Al Hajiri  
Saad Shuaib Al Mutairi  
Abdulla Nasser Al Hajiri  
Ayed Sanud Al Azemi  
Omar Abdullah Al Inzai  
Moubarak Ibrahim Al Aboudi  
Faraj Mizlou Al Azemi

**25th constituency — Umm Al Haiman**

Saad Znaifir Al Azemi  
Mishel Hamajan Al Azemi  
Hmoud Awaad Al Azemi

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## ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NO MAN is rich enough to buy back his past — Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1854-1900).

## OPINION

## Activation of economy vital

DURING the past few months, the Kuwaiti arena was the scene of political controversies on the issue of the return of parliament. However, the issue has now abated with the order to elect members to the Interim National Council and discussions are now centred on elections.

Thus, one very vital issue remains outstanding — the activation of the local economy. It is unimaginable to picture the Kuwait Stock Market continuing to retreat despite all financial indicators being good as compared to other countries. The real estate and commercial sectors have positively picked up and only the stock market remains to follow. Poignantly, one of the most vital Kuwaiti economic pillars is the number of companies and banks that trade their shares in the Stock Exchange Market.

The outcome of the Kuwaiti economic struggle during the past 40 years is represented in these fixed economic establishments like banks and investment companies. The drop in the values of these assets or the prices of their shares will adversely influence the performance of the entire investment sector.

In this context, it must be pointed out that the government has supported the real estate sector by pumping one billion dinar on real estate purchases and will pay this amount over the next five years. If the state had dealt similarly with the shares sector, the value of these assets would have appreciated and size of debts reduced.

We have to remember that political turmoil is in part caused by economic disorders and thus the state should be considerate to the conditions of its citizens, particularly if it is capable.

The state can achieve this through developing those economic sectors hit solely due to lack of trust. The retreat in value of these sectors does not necessarily mean that they are unable to perform well. All that is called for is correct understanding of their problems. We should also realise that the various economic sectors are inter-related and influence each other.

What we exactly need now after the abatement of political controversies and turmoil is to pay great attention to improving the performance of the Kuwait Stock Market, reactivate the transit trade and boost internal trade.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Nationalist flag over Ukraine  
Radicals in power

L'VOV, Soviet Union. (Reuters): When a group of dissidents came to power in the Western Ukrainian city of L'viv last month, the first thing they did was fly the Ukrainian nationalist flag over the city council meeting hall.

There has been trouble with higher Soviet authorities ever since. The chief Ukrainian prosecutor in Kiev, the capital, declared the action unconstitutional. L'viv's new leaders responded on April 28 by making the blue-and-yellow banner the region's official flag — and hundreds of them were paraded through the city's streets on May Day.

"Last year just a few people dared to wave this flag on the first of May. Today we have a whole stadium full of them," L'viv Mayor Vasil Shpiter, who took an oath on the Bible when he was sworn into office in April, told the holiday rally.

## Bridgehead

Long a centre of nationalist dissent, L'viv has emerged as a bridgehead from which pro-independence forces are fighting for the gradual "liberation" of the Ukraine from Soviet control.

Since radicals on the "democratic bloc" ticket won the majority in the March elections in L'viv and two neighbouring regions, Ternopol and Ivano-Frankovsk, they have been fighting the local communists and Kiev over the symbols and levers of power.

"We have the formal power but the (communist) Party still has plenty of real power," said Vyacheslav Chornovil, a former dissident journalist who is now chairman of the L'viv Regional Council.

"The party can lean on the republican power to call off our decisions," said Chornovil, who spent 15 years in prison for his views. "It can also try to sabotage our decisions because it has people at every level."

With more than five million people, the Western Ukraine is as populous as Lithuania and Estonia combined. But if the desire for independence were to spread to the rest of the republic, where democratic bloc candidates did not do as well in the elections for local councils and the Ukrainian Parliament, the risk to Moscow would be much greater than that of Baltic secession.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1527 — Troops under Charles, Duke of Bourbon, mutiny, kill the Duke and pillage Rome, killing about 4,000 inhabitants.

1576 — Fifth war of Religion in France ends by peace of Monsieur.

1757 — Prussia's King Frederick II defeats Holy Roman Empire forces at Prague.

1839 — Britain's House of Commons passes bill to suspend Jamaica's constitution after riots due to emancipation of slaves.

1877 — Britain sends Russia note warning it against attempted blockade of Suez or occupation of Egypt.

1882 — United States bans Chinese immigration for ten years.

1913 — Montenegro's King Nicholas yields Scutari to Central Powers until Albanian government is created.

1932 — France's president Paul Doumer is murdered by Russian immigrant.

1937 — German dirigible Hindenburg explodes and burns on landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 36 passengers.

1941 — Josef Stalin becomes Soviet premier, succeeding V.M. Molotov.

1942 — US Filipino forces on island of Corregidor in Manila bay surrender to Japanese in World War II.

196 — South Africa passes Bantu laws amendment bill.

1971 — Earthquake strikes northeastern Italy, about 900 bodies are recovered and 400 people are reported missing.

1978 — UN Secretary Council condemns South Africa for invading Angola and demands withdrawal.

1988 — Church and mediators condemn police raid on striking steelworkers in southern Poland.

1989 — Chinese students send new appeal to government and Communist Party for a dialogue on their demands for democracy and end to corruption.



Crisis brings snags out to light

## Tito tenure under scrutiny

BELGRADE. (Reuters): Ten years after the death of Josip Broz Tito, Yugoslavia faces a crisis that could tear it apart and critics are calling the achievements of his 35-year rule into question.

Traffic came to a halt and sirens wailed at 3.05 pm (1305 GMT) on Friday afternoon to commemorate the former leader's death at that moment on May 4, 1980.

Tito founded Yugoslavia as a communist state and dominated it after the war. He was a man of such extent that he seemed to embody the country. But a deep economic and political crisis and recent attacks by dissident historians and former colleagues have badly dented his image.

## Survival

The ruling Communist Party is fighting for survival after losing power in two of the Balkan federation's six republics to parties which threaten to break from Yugoslavia. It faces high inflation, violent unrest and growing nationalism.

Yugoslavia is on the verge of complete breakdown as an idea and as a state, Franjo Tudjman, leader of the right-wing Croatian Democratic Union (CDU), said after crushing the communists in parliamentary elections in Croatia last week.

"Disintegration, conflicts and stagnation have brought Yugoslavia to the crossroads of a dilemma: to fundamentally change or to split," Milovan Djilas, a former Tito aide who became a dissident, wrote last week.

Gone are the days during Tito's lifetime when Yugoslavia led reform in the communist world with its unique blend of decentralised communism and non-alignment that earned it respect and influence in the East, West and the developing world.

The democratic political changes sweeping away communism in the rest of Eastern Europe in the last

year have gradually made Yugoslavia's communist rulers more isolated and fuelled anger at home at what now seems the slow pace of reform.

## System

Solving the problems is difficult under the political system Tito created. Yugoslavia's top political posts are rotated annually between the six republics and two provinces to stop any region dominating the country and keep a balance of power.

Critics say the system is flawed because it creates a public impression of weakness and encourages a leader simply to try to survive his year in office without disaster.

Also, the ousting of communists in Croatia and Slovenia, the two most economically developing republics, has radically altered the balance of power by creating an anti-communist power base in the northwest.

Both Slovenia and Croatia want Yugoslavia to become a confederation, a looser union allowing more regional autonomy, and resist what they say are attempts by Serbia, the biggest republic, to take control of all Yugoslavia.

"We hope a balance will remain and that it will be possible to work out a democratic deal on how to live in Yugoslavia. If that does not work, maybe we will all conclude that it would be best to go on separately."

Many Yugoslavs fear a violent confrontation between Serbia and Croatia, the two main centres of power.

Nationalism has risen since Tito's death and clashes have flared in the last 13 months in southern Kosovo province. At least 56 people have been killed as ethnic Albanians demanded more independence from Serbia, of which Kosovo is a part.

Some Yugoslavs still admire Tito for leading the underground resistance against the Italian and German invaders in World War II, standing firm against the Soviet Union which broke ties in 1948, and making Yugoslavia a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement.

## Display

Many offices and shops display his portrait and communist leaders officially revere him.

But both Tito's foreign and domestic policies have come under fire. In the latest attack, newspapers have accused him of ordering the brutal treatment of pro-Soviet communists in concentration camps after the 1948 split.

Pressure groups are demanding that eight towns and cities named after Tito be given back their old names. These include Titograd, capital of the republic of Montenegro.

Yugoslavia's communist rulers' answer to the economic problems is Western-style market-oriented reforms that will include factory closures and mass redundancies.

They want closer integration with Western Europe, including membership of the European Economic Community, and propose federal multi-party elections by the end of the year in which they would face a huge task trying to keep their 45-year grip on power.

But the Communist Party is so split that it may not even exist in its present form by the time the elections are held and the shape of the whole country could have changed dramatically.

"It's impossible to predict how Yugoslavia will look at the end of this year," a Western diplomat said. "It may be a federation, a confederation or it may not exist at all."

## Ben Ali employs two-edged style

TUNIS. (Reuters): President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia, in a gesture characteristic of his 30-month reign, has offered his opponents a concession to keep alive hopes of change while simultaneously keeping a tight grip on the reins of power.

Ben Ali, 53, promised in a May Day speech unspecified measures to make it easier for opposition parties to break the ruling party's monopoly of seats in Parliament.

He coupled it with a warning that he alone would decide the pace and course of democratic reform "unaffected by all forms of pressure or political manoeuvring."

## Facade

The promise was symbolic of a reform process which his supporters say is sincere but cautious and his critics dismiss as a facade to disguise a form of authoritarianism.

Ben Ali took power constitutionally in November 1987 by having former president Habib Bourguiba declared unfit to rule through old age and ill health.

He based his legitimacy on promises of multi-party democracy, saying Tunisians were now mature enough to do without the paternalistic style of government which Bourguiba represented.

But his bonemoon with the country's "political class" was brief and old-style police tactics soon re-emerged as a method for dealing with politicians who refused to fit in with the government's vision of democracy managed from above.

In the general elections of April 1989, the new system's first test in the field, the ruling party won all 141 seats in Parliament. The government denied opposition allegations that there were widespread abuses.

Disenchanted Tunisians now say the turn of events was probably inevitable, given Ben Ali's background as a military and security man associated with Bourguiba's one-party system.

## Menages

Ben Ali himself has said he manages the country from a computer in his private office, filled with data and with the instructions he has given to his ministers and subordinates.

He seldom ventures out of his presidential palace in the Tunis suburb of Carthage and his only visits to the provinces have been brief and unannounced, without the crowds which Bourguiba attracted when he toured the country.

Ben Ali has never addressed the nation without a prepared text or in the colourful language and he broke off this sole news conference, in New York last year, before it ended.

Government officials argue that the President is a committed democrat who faces resistance to change from inside the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union and a powerful Islamist movement which would undo all his democratic reforms if it came to power.

But Ben Ali has also alienated the secular left, who

might count among his allies. Three left-of-centre parties last month announced plans to form a broad democratic front to capture the middle ground between the ruling party and the Islamists.

The unrecognised Islamic movement Nahdha (Renaissance), whose sympathisers won 13 per cent of the popular vote in general elections in April 1989, has emerged as the only serious challenge to Ben Ali's government.

Ruling party leaders now devote most of their speeches to virulent attacks on its alleged intentions.

One president adviser said the Nahdha had been infiltrated by Iranian-style Shiite Muslims and Secretary of State for Religious Affairs Ali Chebbi, the mouthpiece of official Islam, accused its leaders of posing as intermediaries with God.

## Newspaper

Al Fajr, Nahdha's weekly newspaper whose appearance is itself a concession to the movement's popularity, last week described the campaign as hysterical and gratuitous and called for a serious dialogue.

In his May Day speech Ben Ali tried to redirect the political debate away from religion, the dominant theme, back to economics, where the ruling party is on safer ground.

But some diplomats and political scientists say a head-on collision with the Islamic movement may be inevitable.

## Letters to the editor

## Successful effort

SIR: The inaugural function of 400 years of Hyderabad (Deccan) which took place on May 4, at Jaleeb Shuyoukh grounds was amazing and colourful. H.E. the Ambassador of India graced this function with his presence.

The credit goes to the organising committee for their efforts to make this function a success. All

Hyderabad's flew in the mood of celebrating the 400 years of Hyderabad.

Dr Naidu, convenor of sports, Mr Mohd Karim Irfan, joint convenor of sports organised the sports within the limitation and really appreciable of their round the clock efforts to make this event of sports a success of target. The games of adults and children were in a well organised manner.

I hope the remaining events of celebration shall be

more successful.

Mohd. Basheeruddin, Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Liberia  
Full-scale war could develop

MONROVIA. (Reuters): Liberia's President Samuel Doe is facing the toughest fight of a stormy decade in power as rebels advance closer to the capital Monrovia, but even if he triumphs he will rule a crippled economy and a divided nation.

Most American and European residents have fled his West African country and diplomats believe the conflict is about to intensify. Some fear all-out tribal war.

"The situation has so polarised the nation on a tribal basis that it will take a long time to heal the wounds and it will take an even longer time to get the nation back on a sound economic footing," one diplomat said.

## Survivor

Doe, survivor of several coup and assassination attempts, said on Monday that he wanted to end the conflict peacefully, but both sides have issued belittling statements.

"I will in two weeks deal with the situation militarily," Doe said on April 25.

"I'm not hiding, I'm coming to Monrovia," rebel leader Charles Taylor retorted a day later.

The rebels, mostly from the Gio and Mano tribes, are several hundred, strong and well armed. Travellers say they have blocked the main road to Nimba County, northeast Liberia, and virtually split the country in two.

Some say they have advanced to within striking distance of the port of Buchanan, 75 miles (120 km) southeast of Monrovia. Telephone lines to the city have been cut.

Diplomats say the last thing Liberia needs is ethnic war between Gio and Manos and members of Doe's Krahn tribe. But hundreds have been killed on both sides since the uprising began last December near the border with Ivory Coast.

"Even if Doe wins, the country still loses because US aid is closing and businesses are folding," one diplomat said.

Liberia, dependent on iron ore for more than half of its export earnings, is on the verge of economic collapse.

The International Monetary Fund declared Liberia to be "non-cooperating" earlier this year, the last step before expulsion from the agency.

Iron ore mining has almost stopped as a result of the uprising, thousands of farmers have abandoned rubber and other plantations and more than 150,000 people have escaped the fighting to Guinea and Ivory Coast.

The United States, Britain and other Western governments have urged their nationals to leave the country, founded by freed American slaves in 1847.

"Even if Doe wins, past experience has shown that there could be a price to pay in the form of recriminations," one analyst said.

This could have further consequences for foreign aid, which has already been sharply cut because of the country's poor debt repayment record and concern over human rights abuses.

President Bush last week suspended Liberia from US trade benefits because of human rights abuses and the House of Representatives condemned violence against citizens by Liberian government forces.

Liberia was the largest recipient of US aid in black Africa under the Reagan administration, receiving \$500 million. Aid in 1990 is expected to be below 20 million.

Some foreigners remain committed to Liberia, notably about 5,000 Lebanese traders who fled the fighting in their own country.

"We ran away from one fight to get into another. What is the use of running," one said.

## Salvadoran forces' rights record tainted

WASHINGTON. (Reuters): A US congressional report on the massacre of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador has underscored Washington's failure to tame the Salvadoran military, which has for the last decade received US advice, aid and training.

The report, by a task force made up of 19 members of the House of Representatives, said the Salvadoran Armed Forces continued to abuse human rights "despite receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in US aid and training over the past decade."

According to the task force, which conducted extensive interviews in El Salvador, the killing of the six Jesuits amounted to an indictment of the Salvadoran Armed Forces as an institution.

Aid Secretary of State James Baker told a Senate panel on that US aid to El Salvador would be affected by the way the government of President Alfredo Cristiani handles its investigation into the murder of the priests.

Human rights organisations have blamed the Salvadoran military for murdering thousands of civilians since the country's deep-rooted social, economic and political problems flared into civil war.

Last year, the New York-based rights group Americas Watch accused the administration of President George Bush of glossing over "unspeakable abuses" by the military to protect continued assistance in the fight against Marxist-led rebels.

There have been periodic threats from Washington to cut off US aid — running at more than \$1 billion a day for the past 10 years — unless the 60,000 strong armed forces improved their behaviour.

But even the 1980 murder of four American nuns by Salvadoran soldiers, an incident which outraged the American public, prompted no more than a five-week suspension of US aid. In the years since, the powerful military have routinely shrugged off US rebukes.

The task force report stemmed from the murder of six Jesuit priests, including the rector of the Jesuit-run Central American University, during a large-scale offensive by left-wing insurgents last November.

The six were dragged from their beds and shot at close range on the university campus.

Eight members of the Salvadoran military have been detained for complicity in the massacre but the congressional report expressed doubt that justice would ever be done.

It said the Salvadoran investigation had made no significant progress and little effort to find out whether high-ranking officers had ordered the murder or covered it up.

Critics of US policy in El Salvador blame human rights abuses in part on the tendency of successive American administrations to look the other way, declared there was progress when there was none, and continue giving aid.

In the early 1980s, US aid to El Salvador was tied to regular presidential "certifications" to Congress of improvement in human rights. It was duly given every six months.







## Bhattarai invited to Delhi for trade talks

KATHMANDU, May 5, (UPI): The Indian government has invited Nepalese Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai to New Delhi for talks to end the lingering trade dispute that has crippled Nepal's economy and caused severe shortages, the finance minister said yesterday.

"Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh has invited the prime minister to visit New Delhi as soon as possible," said Devendra Pandey, who returned from a brief trip to New Delhi. He delivered a personal message from Bhattarai to Singh.

The letter asked India to restore the status quo and normalise trade relations. India imposed a general trade embargo on bilateral trade in March 1989 when treaties covering trade and transit expired. Both sides blamed the other for the failure to renew the treaties.

India imposed 100 per cent duty on Nepalese exports, virtually throttling the landlocked nation's economy. Prices of essential commodities soared when Nepal was forced to import petrol at prohibitive prices in the open market.

India said Nepal had violated the spirit of a bilateral treaty covering security matters when it strengthened its relations with China. China and India fought a border war in 1962.

The new Nepalese interim government headed by Bhattarai Thursday moved to end an agreement with a Chinese construction company and a Nepalese firm to build a spinning mill close to the border, according to ruling Nepali Congress spokesman Mathbar Bhusnet.

The decision apparently was aimed at placating the Indian government which has opposed the presence of Chinese personnel within 10 miles (16 km) of the open India-Nepal border.

Relations between India and Nepal's previous partyless government headed by King Birendra were seriously strained leading to the breakdown of trade relations last year.

India has welcomed Nepal's first multi-party system in 29 years. China has made no official comment so far.

## Economy is still on track: US

WASHINGTON, May 5, (Reuters): The powerful Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations are likely to decide that the world economy is still on track and that they don't need to take any major initiatives when they meet here on Sunday.

That was the message delivered to reporters on Thursday by a senior US Treasury Department official ahead of a series of international meetings here from May 4 through May 8.

"The overall economic situation continues to be favourable," said the official, who declined to be identified.

Big progress has been made in putting world trade back into better balance and currency rates have been relatively stable since the last G-7 meeting on April 7, he said.

At that meeting, the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany — expressed concern that the weak Japanese yen could undermine efforts to reduce world trade gaps by making Japanese exports cheaper.

"Exchange rates have been relatively stable this past month," the senior official said, adding, "We continue to be concerned about the general level of the yen."

He said that the recent uptick in US inflation is likely to prove just that and should be offset later this year.

"Underlying trends continue to be favourable," the official said.

While acknowledging that the inflation outlook must be watched closely, the treasury official seemed distinctly more relaxed about the recent jump in prices than some members of the US central bank.

Consumer prices rose at an 8.5 per cent annual rate in the first quarter, the fastest pace in eight years, although economists said that much of the rise could be explained away by temporary factors such as unusually cold winter.

But that has not stopped Federal Reserve officials from voicing concern, intensifying speculation that the central bank may be on the verge of raising interest rates to try to cool off the economy.

"Clearly there were some temporary items but there is disappointment in the figures," Federal Reserve vice chairman Manuel Johnson told reporters on Wednesday.

## Exchange Rates

Indian rupee	16.980
Sri Lankan rupee	7.400
Pakistani rupee	13.490
Bangladesh taka	8.500
US dollar	29.305
Pound sterling	488.75
UAE dirham	0.7975
Deutsche mark	176.30
Japanese yen	0.01860

## Wall Street watch

# Stock outlook tied up in bonds

The economy is starting to weaken again, say economists

NEW YORK, May 5, (AP): By the time the government finishes selling \$30.5 billion in bonds and notes over the next few days, Wall Streeters hope the outlook will have brightened for the stock market.

The record-sized quarterly auction of treasury securities slated for Tuesday through Thursday has been hashed over for weeks among stock and bond analysts.

For a time, some observers believed it would compel the Federal Reserve to tighten its monetary policy merely to make sure that a decent contingent of bidders from around the world showed up.

In the past few days, however, the mood in the markets seemed to perk up, with long-term interest rates already at their highest levels since last year around this time.

While hopes increased a bit that rates might be near a turning point, investors were confronted with a new cause for pause — that the zigzagging economy might once more be veering in the direction of a recession.

"The economy is starting to weaken again," assert the economists David A. Levy and S. Jay Levy in the latest edition of their newsletter *Industry Forecast*.

"Right now, many investors are talking about worsening inflation and a pickup in the economy. Three months from now, recession fears will dominate their thinking and the inflation danger will have been all but forgotten."

Talk of a pickup in business activity and increasing inflationary pressures was abruptly quieted Friday, when the Labour Department reported that the civilian unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point in April to 5.4 per cent.

The figures also showed an increase of 64,000 in non-farm payroll employment, far

less than economists had been expecting.

That presumably didn't bode well for corporate earnings in the second quarter and beyond, at a time when some forecasters had been looking for profits to start pulling out of their recent slump.

Nevertheless, some analysts say other, positive forces are at work in the market for treasury securities that shouldn't be overlooked. For one thing, they say, an increased emphasis on savings over spending in this country has started to ease the United States' much-lamented dependency on foreign capital to finance its deficit spending.

Stock traders seemed willing at least to listen to such arguments in the past week. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 65.31 to 2,710.36.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index gained 4.63 to 185.37; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market added 10.63 to 428.61, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was up 3.09 to 345.73.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 139.90 million shares a day, against 135.59 million the week before.

In recent weeks, observed John Connolly at Dean Witter Reynolds, "every major government refunding has become a cliff-hanger. Will foreign investors show up, or will the auctions be a flop? Such uncertainty breeds higher interest rates."

But more recently, Connolly contends the trends that helped create this situation have shifted.

"The savings rate has risen steadily, which, combined with higher incomes, has substantially increased the pool of savings. At the same time the government deficit has abated somewhat."

## The week in business

# US to cut defence spending

\$1.2tr plan approved

NEW YORK, May 5, (UPI): The government this week released a string of mixed but, on the whole, encouraging economic indicators while legislators voted on proposed defence spending cuts to ease the burden of the world's largest budget deficit.

The Senate Budget Committee approved a \$1.2 trillion plan Wednesday that would cut defence spending by \$13 billion and trim the fiscal 1991 deficit by \$43 billion.

The Senate plan was more stringent than the \$3.2 billion reduction proposed by President Bush or the \$11.5 billion defence spending cut to \$295.5 billion earlier approved by the House of Representatives.

The budget deficit for fiscal 1989 was \$152 billion. The best news for the US economy came from the Commerce Department which said Wednesday the leading indicators index in March rose by a strong 0.9 per cent. The advance, boosted by a revival in the industrial sector, contrasted

with a sharp 1 per cent decline in February.

Economists predicted a 1 per cent increase in the barometer of economic activity, which had been falling by a rate of 0.1 per cent per month since the first quarter of 1989.

Americans earned more money in March than in February with personal income rising \$35.8 billion to an annual rate of \$4.6 trillion, while savings were up \$17.9 billion to \$229.7 billion, according to another department report.

Also among the good news, manufacturing orders rose 3.8 per cent in March to \$240.4 billion, the best showing since December 1988, on another month of strong demand for aircraft, the government said.

The privately compiled purchasing manager's index rose to 50.2 per cent in April from 48.8 per cent in March. It was the first time in 11 months that the index, boosted by strong new exports

orders, climbed above a reading of 50 which indicates growth.

On a less optimistic note, the Labour Department said Friday layoffs in heavy industry pushed the nation's jobless rate up to 5.4 per cent in April from 5.2 per cent in March, the highest unemployment level since January 1989.

Total civilian employment declined slightly to 118.1 million in April while factory jobs have decreased by 280,000 over the past 13 months.

In the construction, spending on new projects fell 1.4 per cent in March to \$432.5 billion, the worst monthly drop since February 1989, and single-family home sales were down 5 per cent for the fourth straight month to an annual rate of 574,000. Economists and real estate analysts blamed rising interest rates for slowing home sales.

Wall Street reacted positively to the flurry of economic reports

and recorded gains throughout the week. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed above 2,700 points Thursday, its highest level in two weeks, but somewhat retreated Friday after the disappointing unemployment figures.

The unemployment figures also drove the dollar down in New York, where traders quoted the dollar at 1.6745 West German marks, down from 1.6828 Thursday, and at 158.68 Japanese yen, down from 158.85 at the opening Friday.

Attention on the world's oil markets was focused on the meeting in Geneva of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries which decided to lower the 13-member organisation's daily output by 1.5 million barrels to 22 million barrels in a bid to prop up prices. The announcement did not immediately affect markets as prices remained on the downward trend.

## Egypt imposes new price rises

CAIRO, May 5, (Reuters): Egypt, under pressure to agree economic reforms with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), announced price increases today aimed at cutting huge state subsidies.

The action, announced in the semi-official daily *Al Gomhuria*, covered a string of basic food items including wheat flour, rice and pasta.

The price hikes, ranging from 10 to 100 per cent, followed an increase of about 130 per cent earlier this week in prices for butane gas and a smaller increase in cigarette prices.

Subsidies, a legacy of the socialist policies of the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser, are officially estimated at \$3.6 billion (\$1.4 billion) a year.

Egypt has been negotiating with the IMF for more than a year on economic reforms that would allow rescheduling of part of its estimated \$50-billion foreign debt and open the way for fresh credits.

Among other things, the IMF wants Egypt to slash subsidies, push interest rates to the level of inflation to attract more savings, and tighten government spending.

Egyptian officials have predicted an accord by June or July but say a major difference is the speed at which reforms should be introduced.

The government, mindful of 1977 riots sparked by sudden price increases, last year cautiously raised the prices of bread, electricity and some oil products.

Today's rises will not affect bread, a staple food for most Egyptians, as bakeries still get flour at subsidised rates.

## Call to rethink strategy for tackling debt crisis

WASHINGTON, May 5, (Reuters): Third World nations, worried their economic problems are being forgotten in the rush to aid fledgling democracies of East Europe, are calling on industrial countries to rethink their strategy for tackling the \$1.3 trillion debt crisis.

But as the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank get underway, Washington and its allies show little sign of agreeing to major new initiatives and are likely to argue that the debt strategy set in place over the past two years is generally working.

Monetary officials say developing nations, which meet today to co-ordinate their position ahead of talks with industrial countries on Monday and Tuesday, will back their call for a more flexible debt strategy with a demand for a substantial increase in the IMF's capital.

That, they argue, is essential if the fund is to cope with the new credit demands of East Europe's ramshackle economies without syphoning away funds from the debt-laden nations in Latin America and Africa.

"This triumphant development for democracy in Eastern Europe is like man bites dog," Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley told reporters on Friday. "My continuing problem of foreign exchange is just dog bites man."

"How do we get people to understand that both are important?"

"We say go to those challenges which you must, but please don't finance them by diverting resources from us. It does not have to be at our expense."

But leading industrial nations have yet to resolve a row between France and Britain over ranking in the fund and have made it clear they will not agree to a more than 50 per cent rise in the \$120 billion of subscription quotas, the pool of funds drawn on to make loans.

And on the debt strategy, US officials have this week spelt out that there is little scope for more generous treatment for debtors despite growing criticism from banks and development agencies that they believe it is inadequate.

A United Nations official warned on Friday that failure to act would force Latin American countries unilaterally to halt debt payments.

"Economies cannot grow if they are having to transfer up to one-third of their domestic savings abroad," Gert Rosenthal, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, said in Caracas.

Monetary officials say the most developing nations can expect in a move backed by France is special consideration for countries which fall between the gaps in the current debt strategy, qualifying for relief neither under the "Turntun terms" agreed in 1988 nor the 1989 "Brady plan."

## Bonds soar on jobs data

Fed to tighten credit

NEW YORK, May 5, (Reuters): A surprisingly weak employment report pointing to a weaker-than-expected US economy lessened worries on Friday that the Federal Reserve will tighten credit and sparked a big rise in bond prices.

The dollar fell to its lowest level in three months against the West German mark, although it was mixed against other currencies.

Unemployment rose unexpectedly in April to 5.4 per cent, its highest level in 15 months, and only the addition of temporary US census workers kept payrolls growing, the US Labour Department said.

The shocker was the small increase of 64,000 jobs in the closely watched non-farm payrolls in April, compared with economists' forecasts of a sharp rise of 383,000.

Bond prices soared on the news.

"These numbers were a big surprise to everybody," a bond trader said. "Everything (in the data) is showing greater signs of weakness than the market had priced in."

The pacesetter 30-year treasury bond closed up almost 1-1/2 points, lowering the yield to 8.83 per cent from 8.97 per cent at Thursday's close. When bond prices rise, their yields fall.

"A lot of concern about a strong rebound in the economy was misplaced," said Steven Richeichi, chief economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Government Securities Inc. "It (jobs data) takes some of the pressure off the market that the Federal Reserve's going to be out there tightening."

The dollar fell to 1.6665 West German marks, down from 1.6830 on Thursday, although it rose slightly to 158.31 Japanese yen, compared with 158.10.

Dealers said they hoped that clearer signals on Central Bank's exchange rate policies would emerge from the meeting on Sunday of the Group of Seven industrialised countries, which includes Japan, West Germany, Britain, Canada, France, Italy and the United States.

## Economic crisis strains families in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, May 5, (Reuters): When Pope John Paul II begins a visit to Mexico on Sunday he will find that years of economic crisis have strained the institution of the family.

Mexican women, who traditionally deferred to authoritarian husbands while bearing and bringing up large families, have flooded into the work force in the past decade — either in the "informal economy", selling tacos or video cassette recorders on street corners, or in office jobs.

And nearly half of them are using contraceptives to limit the size of their families — a challenge for the Roman Catholic church which bans artificial contraception.

The Pope is expected to counsel the faithful against the use of contraceptives during his eight-day visit to the Mexico City where more than 90 per cent of the people are Catholics.

While his homilies may not convince some Mexican women, they may have more influence with the poor, said Barbara Garcia Colome, a counsellor with the private centre for the study and prevention of domestic violence.

"The Catholic church carries a lot of weight, so if the Pope prohibits birth control it's a powerful message," she said.

Mexican Catholic leaders say the traditional strength of the home is disintegrating under the pressures of modern life. They criticise an educational system that teaches secular values and promotes family planning.

"I believe there are families that are going through moments of crisis... and they tend to dissolve," said Miguel Ayala Ortiz, a spokesman for the Mexican episcopal conference.

A 50 per cent drop in real wages since Mexico's debt crisis began in the early 1980s may be fuelling domestic violence.

"There is a lot of stress on men who can't provide for their families," said Marian McClure, who works with women's groups for the Ford Foundation in Mexico City.

For many women working outside the home, a traditional safety net — the extended family — has gone. Relatives who used to have time to look after their children are now out at work themselves.

## Taiwan's copyright pirates sail into the space age

TAIPEI, May 5, (Reuters): In Taiwan, long one of the world's biggest bazaars of counterfeit goods, it's getting difficult to buy a fake Rolex watch.

The phoney Rolex, along with the mock Louis Vuitton bag, the Pseudo-Polo shirt and the almost-Adidas sports shoe are all but gone from Taipei street stalls — ask any disappointed tourist.

But if your shopping list runs to high-tech medical equipment, electronic microchips or copied computer software, you're in luck.

Like the island's other industries, Taiwan's infamous pirates of patents and copyrights are moving into the space age.

"Our technology has advanced quickly, but our legal concepts have lagged behind," said Yang Chung-Sen, deputy director of the semi-official Intellectual Property Protection Committee (IPPC).

In one recent undercover operation, US customs videotaped a Taiwanese couple in a South Carolina hotel allegedly selling copies of a hugely popular video game. They could only have been produced with special equipment which copies the electronic chips that store the game.

Lawyers and businessmen say the pair

were typical of the new breed of Taiwan copycat, who has both the technical know-how and the equipment to duplicate some of the world's latest inventions.

"The real fear now is that Taiwan has started doing it — (counterfeiting) high-tech equipment, chemicals and new biotech inventions," said one Western trade specialist who asked not to be named.

"In the long run, they'll pay the price in economic development," he said. "There is no way foreign companies and inventors will bring their leading-edge products to Taiwan. They know they'll be ripped off," he said.

"Even our own products are being copied now, so consciousness of the problem is definitely rising," said IPPC executive secretary Wang Tu-Tsun.

Pesticides, prescription medicine, industrial lathes, computer hardware, engineered microbes — all of these are now stock in trade for Taiwan pirates, often produced at cut cost with zero quality control.

"They'll do anything, as long as the profit margin is right," said one foreign investigator for a copyright-checking firm.

Taipei has for years faced bitter inter-

national criticism over its lax enforcement of copyright regulations. The United States, Taiwan's largest trading partner, has even threatened to implement trade sanctions if protection of intellectual property rights is not improved.

Taipei has responded by pushing through measures to strengthen anti-counterfeiting laws and by reinforcing copyright and patent protection.

But economists say the real reason for the decline of the fake Rolex and its ilk is economic. Rising wages and the strong local dollar have made the more familiar counterfeit consumer goods unprofitable.

"Some people still make watches, but they do it in Thailand. They just fly the technicians over from Taiwan," said an investigator at Orient Commercial Enquiries, one of dozens of firms that specialise in sniffing out copyright and patent infringement.

Local pirates now concentrate on computer products, especially software. On Taiwan, which has close to one million personal computers, software is readily available, easy to copy and hard to police.

"We estimate software pirates caused losses of more than \$1.2 billion last year,"

said Harry Yu, head of the Information Service Industry Association.

Giant computer companies both in the United States and in Taiwan have stepped up their legal efforts to stop the counterfeiters, providing police with information leading to raids for pirated software and bringing cases to court.

But both Taiwanese and foreign computer company executives say it will take more than a few court cases to close down the pirates, many of whom operate out of private apartments and are able to dismantle and reassemble production facilities in a matter of hours.

"It is going to take a good 10 years before Taiwan has a decent system to protect intellectual property rights," said the Western trade specialist, adding that new laws are useless if they are not enforced.

"We have been screaming at the courts for years, but it doesn't seem to do any good," added the investigator at Orient Commercial Enquiries. "We do the surveillance, do the raid, get the evidence — and then the court will throw the case out. It's frustrating."

## Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)

May 5, '90

Pr. Close Open Close

ACC 438 432 434

Alum Chem — — —

Alw Nis — — —

Ari Fab — — —

Ashok Ley 91 90 91

Asa Paim 233.75 231.25 233.75

Atlas Cop 36 35 37

Auto Corp 65 42.50 46.25

Nat Index 420.65 415.65

Bajaj Auto 453.75 452.50 457.50

Bar Rayon 847.50 842.50 842.50

Blow Plast — — —

Bom Dye 203 201 203

BK Bond 115 114 116

Burr Wal 75 70 75

Cashmere — — —

Cen Euka 3450 3425 3450

Cen Spg 3170 3130 3170

Colgate 208.75 201.25 205

Cromi Gr 985 980 990

DCM — — —

Deep Fert 28.50 29 29

El Hotels 50 52 54

Escorts — — —

BSE Index 786.21 776.11

Eskayev 133.75 133.75 132.50

Essar Spg 39 38 39.25

Food Spl 126 118.75 118.75

Forbes 49.50 48 50

Gas Poly 41 40.50 39

GL India 102 100 101.50

GNFC 37.50 36.50 37.50

Grasim 131 128 128.50

GE Ship 50.25 50.75 50.50

GSFC 176.25 175 177.50

Gul Alki 83 81.50 82.50

Guj Heavy 16 15.25 15.75

Herb Honda 17 16.50 17.50

Hind Ciba 1300 1275 1280

Hind Lever 116 114 115.25</



# Fashion has no rules: Lacroix

French designer here to launch perfume

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff



Designer Christian Lacroix during the spring/summer Paris fashion shows.

CHRISTIAN LACROIX, a man who took Paris by storm when he reintroduced a sense of freedom into fashion design and put a modern touch on classic shapes, says he is not a rebel. "I don't create the shocking for the sake of shocking. I am not a rule breaker" he said at a press meeting in Kuwait yesterday.

Indeed, he is not, for two reasons. Firstly, as far as Lacroix is concerned there are no rules, everything is allowed. And secondly, he says he is really not bringing anything new to the world, he is only rediscovering and reshaping old designs, be they from the baroque period European courts or turn-of-the-century French villages. More often than not his outfits have an ethnic element in them and would not be Lacroix designs if they were not "joyful to the eye", bright, elegant, ornate and colourful.

But they looked new when they appeared on the catwalks in Paris because they came after decades of domination by Christian Dior's "new look" which treated "fashion as a dictate" and later by sober and sombre designs promoted by Japanese designers. "I brought colour and fun back to fashion, I rediscovered old brightness and elegance," explains Lacroix.

Lacroix has delved into his happy childhood memories for inspiration. There, in the south of France, "between Italy and Spain" as he likes to describe it, he found lace, brocade, embroidery and a wealth of colour in the traditional costumes. Small wonder then that his collections are an explosion of colours, an extraordinary melange of fabrics and ideas.

A fan of corrida (bull fight) Lacroix says his favourite colours are red, pink and "a bit of yellow" because those are the colours of a bullfighter's cape.

The past, his own or anybody else's, is what he turns to for fresh ideas. "In fashion everything that can be done has already been done. All we do is play with the shapes of the past," he contends.

Lacroix urges women to go back to their roots, the folklore of their country and look for original designs. He does it all the time, not only with garment designs but also with his perfume C'est la Vie. The trip to Kuwait was mainly to promote the Lacroix fragrance which, "sweet and nostalgic", brings back memories of orange flowers and sunflower "so dear to my heart."

When choosing an outfit or a fragrance a woman should opt for the kind that would make her "feel that she is herself." This, he claims, is the reason behind Princess Diana's success in choosing her wardrobe. "She is true to the image that the British Royal Family portrays. What she wears is very English but it is herself. An even better example is the Queen Mother."

"But when Fergie (the Duchess of York) wears an Yves Saint Laurent it is not so interesting," explains Lacroix.

The 39-year-old designer, who studied to become a museum curator, put away his diploma in the history of art, Greek and Latin and joined Hermes in 1978. He later designed for Jean Patou and in 1986 was awarded the Golden Thimble while still an art director for the same house. More awards followed and Lacroix eventually founded his own fashion house in 1987.

His meteoric rise in the fashion world means that his designs have soared in price. In his latest collection the range was between French francs 30,000 and 180,000 (KD 570 and 3,400). "I'd rather buy a car for that money," said a woman journalist at yesterday's news conference. Displaying a sense of humour Lacroix shot back: "But you cannot wear a car." Who could argue with that?

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

### KTV 1

9.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran  
9.45 Cartoon serial  
10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)  
10.30 Daily Arabic serial  
11.30 Cultural film  
12.00 Variety programme: Candid Camera  
12.30 News in brief and closedown  
Evening  
4.00 Opening and Holy Quran  
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)  
4.30 Cartoon serial  
5.00 Cartoons  
6.00 Historical serial: Muslim judges  
7.00 Songs  
7.15 Health magazine  
7.30 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabat  
8.30 Good evening

9.00 News in Arabic  
9.45 Daily Arabic serial: Layali Al Helmiya  
10.35 Arabic act  
12.00 News in brief  
12.05 World Today via Satellite  
12.20 Closedown

### KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran  
6.10 The Bereastain Bears. "Stooges". A cartoon series for children  
6.30 The Beachcombers. "Father's Day". Clara arrives in Gibsons looking for Nick, claiming her mother knew the charming Greek when he worked in Manitoba many years before. Sara catches Clara rummaging through Nick's room hut Clara

says is Nick's abandoned daughter.  
7.00 Documentary  
8.00 News in English  
8.30 Matlock. A film producer is murdered and his director is accused. Matlock defends him.  
9.30 Body Matters. The human body is not only a conductor but a generator of electricity....  
10.00 The Nut House. "A Frick called Wanda". Tarkington, the manager, keeps special and secret papers for an important client.  
10.30 Beiseller. "Tan-amera, Lion of Singapore". Jonnie attempts to protect Jolly who returned home.  
12.00 News in Brief.  
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite

### CINEMA

Al Andalus  
Arabic film  
Al Salmiyah  
Hall booked  
Al Hamra  
Arabic film  
Drive-in  
Arabic film  
Al Firdos  
Desh Ke Dushman  
Fahadeed Open  
Shankar Dada  
Fahadeed  
The Untouchables  
Al Jahra  
Khami Kismai Ki  
Granada  
Kanoon Apna Apna  
Snalikhah  
Suicide Force  
Jeeb  
Oru Vivada Vishayam  
Ahmadi Drive-in  
Hell On The Battle Ground

### PRAYERS

Fajr 3.35 am  
Zuhr 11.45  
Asr 3.20 pm  
Maghreb 6.27  
Isha 7.52



Ambassador's wife visits Filipino patients

Mrs Hadja Norie M. Tamano, wife of the Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait, visited Filipino patients confined in hospitals during the Eid Al Fitr holidays. She has given her personal attention to the plight of these patients. Shown with her and other patients, are members of the Alliance of Filipino Health Care Workers in Kuwait and Omar Mustari.

## ARTS

**Boushahri Gallery**  
AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jame'ci. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

## SOCIAL

**Indian Arts Circle**  
HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

**May Queen**  
GOAN Welfare Society will crown the May Queen at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, May 10 from 9 pm onwards. Top Ranks in attendance. Airline tickets to be won. For reservations contact Joe (Tel. 4881387), Cajetan (Tel. 5618971), Braz (Tel. 4763674) and Newston (Tel. 5637726).

**L.I. May meeting**  
COME enjoy our meeting this month at the Holiday Inn in the ballroom on Monday, May 7, 1990.  
Our programme this month is a traditional Middle Eastern wedding demonstration which promises to be fun and exciting. Doors open - 6.00pm. Doors close - 7.30pm. Programme starts - 8.30pm sharp.  
For further information contact Barbara - 5325131.

**ACT**  
ACT's production of "Voyages", an evening of words and music about travel, will be presented one night only at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School on Thursday, May 10, 1990. This readers theatre presentation includes selections of humorous and inspiring poetry and prose by contemporary and classical authors. 3KD admission includes light buffet. Call 5620332, 4-8 pm for reservations. Tickets are also available at the door.

**Around the World**  
THE United States Information Service has the pleasure of inviting you to an exhibition "Around the World" by American artist Luz Marina Colwell, starting Tuesday, May 8, 1990 at 5.30 pm at the Kuwait International Hotel, Main Lobby. Exhibition will continue to May 16 from 9 am to 9 pm.

**Approb Essay Competition**  
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has again extended the last date of its essay competition for April 15 to May 31, 1990. The date has been extended at the popular demand because many interested students were unable to participate in the competition due to the examinations and later due to the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

The essay competition on the topic *My role in building a better Pakistan* is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Pakistan resolution. Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants. The panel of judges includes: Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali.

Essays may be mailed to: Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, Kuwait, 22024. For further details, contact: 2425315, Fax: 5323751.

### German-Speaking Cultural Association

THE next coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will be held at 10 am on Sunday, May 6, at the Kuwait International Hotel. Latest information and plans would be announced. All German-speakers are requested to make an effort to attend. All are welcome.

### Saligaocars

CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloio Carvalho, 2411442 Res, 246121, Cedric D'Mello, Res. 3986469 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off, 2415401, Res. 2412337.

**Ladies International League**  
SUMMER bazaar: Regency Palace Hotel, Friday May 11, from 10 am to 6.00 pm. Something for everyone. See you there.

## Cosmos Summer Nite

KUWAIT Cosmos Hockey Club presents Cosmos Summer Nite, an open-air event of the decade on May 10, 1990 at 21.00 hrs until dawn at the lush green lawns of the Hunting and Equestrian Club (by the pool-side). Music by The Hurricane & The Equalisers. Highlights: "Cosmos Summer Nite special", "Novelty dance", "Table surprises", "Ballroom competition", "Live exhibition of the famous Brazilian "Lambada" performed by the team of the Kuwait India Festival. Plenty of gifts in store inclusive of air tickets and not forgetting the aroma of an exotic buffet prepared by exclusively Indian chefs.

Come one, come all - pick your invitation and make your table reservations from the undermentioned members: Fortes - 4741727 (R); Dama - 5623621 (R); Vincent - 4887140 (R).

### Hyderabad

Friday (May 11, 1990), Messilah Beach Resort, 3.00 pm - Once in a life time chance to taste and enjoy delicious and mouthwatering dishes. Games, lucky draw and magic show for children. Prize distribution.

Thursday (May 17, 1990), Carlton Tower Hotel, Fahd Al Salem St. 8.00 pm - Highlighting the golden era of Hyderabad followed by a grand Mushaira by guest and local poets and release of souvenir.

Friday (May 18, 1990), Starline theatre, Entertainment City (Doha), Kuwait, 5.00 pm - Vaudeville function and musical night of ghazals by invitee artists from Hyderabad and local artists, light music and many more items.

Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheen H. Khan.

For further details and information please contact: General information: Mohamad Fasihuddin Chand, Tel: 2402603-5659647; Mohamad Naseeruddin, Tel: 4736958. Sports: Dr Naidu, Tel: 4842578; Karim Idan, Tel: 3716247. Musical programme: Dr Shakeel Khan, Tel: 5317885; Shahnoor Khan, Tel: 5644539. Souvenir: N. Nizamuddin Ahmed, Tel: 4745537; Zakiuddin, Tel: 2428105; Mohamad H. Khan, Tel: 2402019. Literary: Dr Sami Khan, Tel: 4811514; Ehtesham Uddin, Tel: 2463116. Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheen H. Khan.

### Daniella Dhow Trip

FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Dhow trip for Dunes has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am. For reservations, call Jytte Tel. 2449610 before May 5.

## Konkani Theatre

MAY 10-11: Roseferns and his 15 member troupe arrive from Goa to present two Konkani dramas namely new release *Xinxo* at 7 pm (May 10) and repeated at 4 pm (May 11) and diamond jubilee completed Beiman Tum at 10.30 am on May 11 at Granada Cinema, Kheilan. Contrary to reports circulating, THIS IS NOT A LOCAL SHOW and Roseferns, popularly known as Goa's King of Centuries should not be mistaken for one local identical namesake in Kuwait. Tickets available at Raja Stores Tel. 2412970, Tony 5655056, Wilson 3726038, Manuel/Rommel 4816836, Rocky 3924159, Val 5614506.

Canary Video 2459521 and Alex Martins. An Expatriate Club presentation.

## Garden Fete

Hyderabad Festival Committee announces the holding of a garden fete on Friday, May 11, at Messilah Beach Resort. It will be open to all families. Hyderabad food, music show, games and a lot of fun is promised for families. A fancy dress competition is also proposed. Parents of children below 12 who wish to take part in the event can register children's name on 5619071, Mr. Khan.

## Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC Goan Charlie Chaplin - Janeiro. Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sehy Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

## HOTELS

**Kuwait International Hotel**  
FAILAKA: Offers a celebration menu. Promises to be a gourmet's delight. Special Arabic appetizer and desert buffet with a choice of soups and main courses. Live entertainment too.

**LA PALMA:** Eid gala brunch buffet for lunch and extensive Arabic buffet for dinner with oriental band.

**LA PALMA POOL:** Surprise barbeque for lunch with jazz band.

**GARDEN POOL:** Superb Kuhl Khan Mongolian barbeque. Mix and match your lunch while it is prepared according to your palate.

**LA PATISSERIE:** Oriental sweets buffet with tea and coffee. Plenty of take-away too.

**CHILDREN'S CORNER:** Star of the show "AFL" will land with his spaceship at the

Kuwait International, Games, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Kiddle Castle will provide non-stop excitement from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

All details at: 2530000 ext. 8039 or 8040.

## Messilah Beach Hotel

Al Mubarakiah restaurant: The only 24-hour restaurant/coffee shop in Kuwait. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner or any time for refreshments and snacks.

Wednesdays - special seafood promotions: Starting 7 pm with a selection of your favourite fish dishes prepared

to your liking in the relaxed atmosphere decorated with that maritime touch and live background music.

Fridays - special buffet: A go go with a large variety of Middle Eastern and Continental dishes.

BBQ: Every Thursday night in Al Berdoweh the Beach Garden Restaurant offering Lebanese mezzas, grills, fresh salads.

Al Jawharah: Open every Thursday for a special evening of food, music and entertainment by the resident "Rainbow" band.

## SPORTS

### Kuwait Rugby

Thursday May 17: 3rd Annual Fun-Run  
Thursday June 6, Oval Ball.

If you would like details, information on any of these please contact S. Hill 5391720, G. Adams 5644533, R. Houston 5658435.

### Yoga lessons

For fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30

am to 11.30 am. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext 8050 or Tanya at 5626529.

**Kuwait 4th Annual Race**  
MAY 11, 1990 starting at 9.00 am. Don't forget this Kuwait's most awaited, spectacular, water sports event of the year at Messilah Beach Hotel. Tickets are on sale in the hotel or at the main entrance on the day. Just bring your family and friends for a day out. Keep a look out in the papers for our advertising for full details or contact us on 5624111 ext 711/712/739/751.



Black is Beautiful

THE Afro-Arab Friendship Group successfully celebrated the changing political climate in Africa with their concert "Black is Beautiful".

The concert was a musical tribute to the hero of political change in South Africa, Nelson Mandela.

The Afro-Arab Friendship Group planned the concert when Mandela was still in jail; and Namibia had not gained its independence.

Fortunately when the concert took place, Mandela is out and is seen as the greatest hope of Africa and Africans; Namibians have at long last freed themselves from the yoke of colonialism. To them, the group dedicated its concert. And through Afro, Soul and Reggae sounds, the group's singers, including lead vocalist Steve Michael, paid tribute.

The singers were backed by the Afro Beat Band, group of African musicians. An Afro-

American member of the group composed a special song that was dedicated to the Palestinian freedom fighters. Bob Marley songs and original music written by Steve Michael were also presented. For the first time in Kuwait, the audience listened to African music and saw dancers from Sierra Leone and Ghana performing on the Kuwaiti stage.

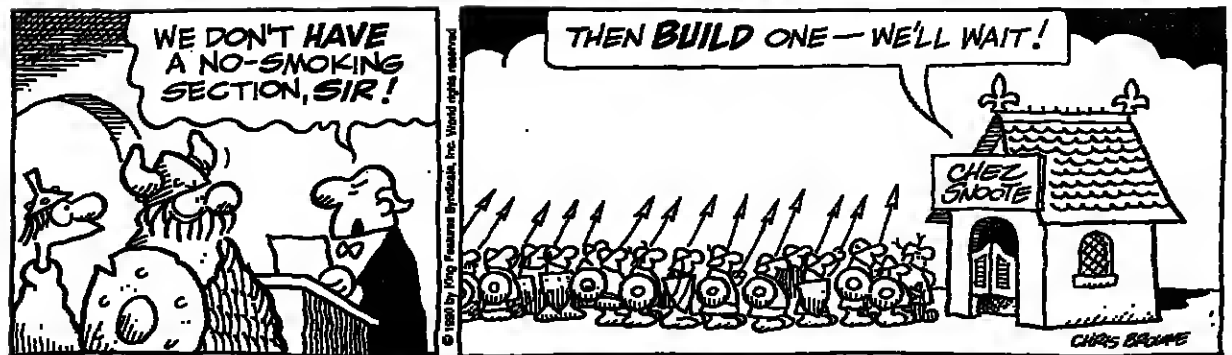
Pictures shows lead singer (left) and two African dancers (right). (Picture by Tamin Saleh).



## BLONDIE By Dean Young &amp; Stan Drake



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



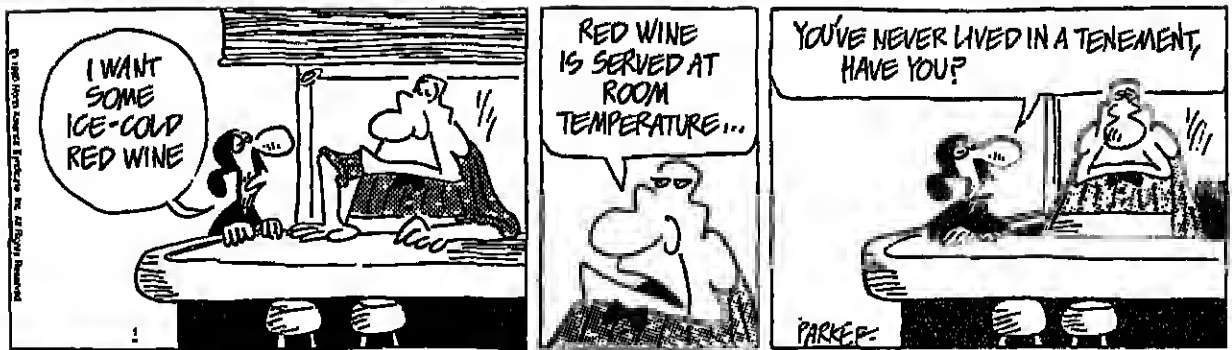
## AGATHA CRUM



## BERTIE DAILY



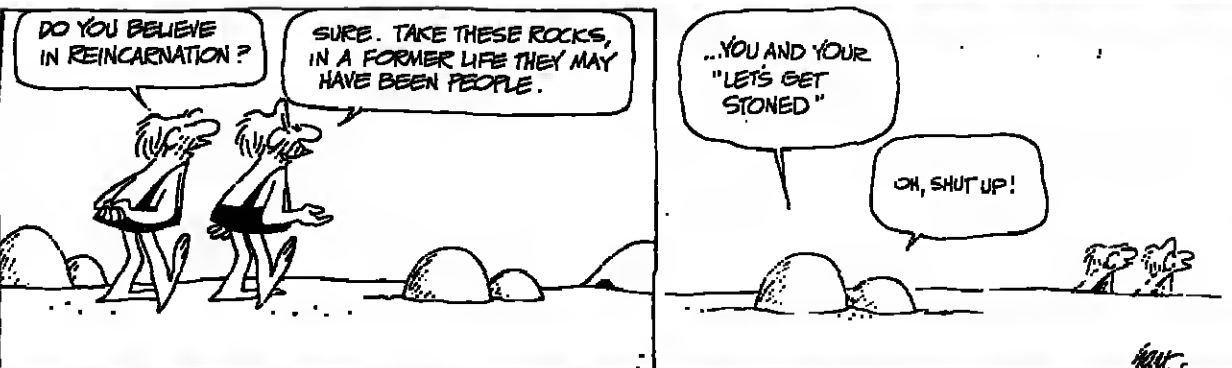
## THE WIZARD OF ID



## ANDY CAPE



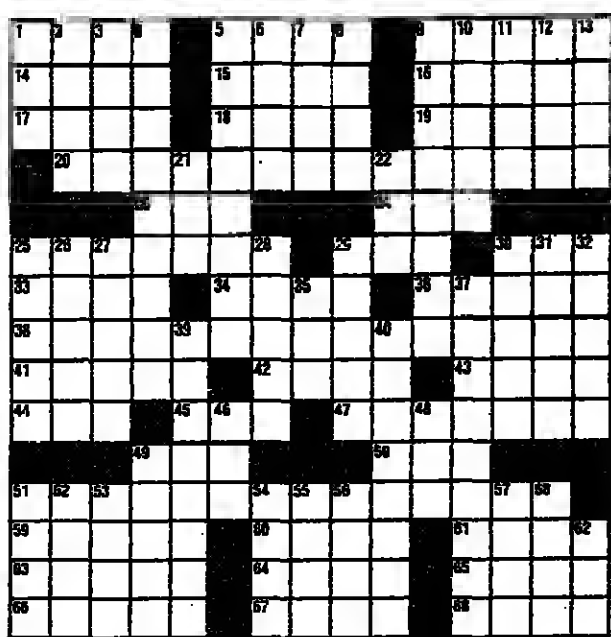
## B.C. By Bob Mankoff



## HE-MAN By G. Foster &amp; S. ...



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

- 1 Damage  
5 Bristlelike part of a plant  
9 Dustin in "Midnight Cowboy"  
14 Thought  
15 Noted tentmaker  
16 A Kennedy author  
17 "Buddenbrooks"  
18 Small steam  
19 Collectively  
20 Amadeus offering  
23 Quaffer's choice  
24 Airport abbr.  
25 Providing a bank service  
29 Author John — Passos  
30 Fall guy  
33 Bus lead-in  
34 "A — of Two Cities"  
36 Candle  
38 Ludwig's "Pathétique"  
41 Chou followers  
42 Depart  
43 — Tim  
44 Ship's dir.  
45 Hodges or Blas  
47 Moorings  
48 Karn tune: 1925  
50 Part of an atlas  
51 Johannes's Opus 68  
59 — di Lammormoor  
60 Split  
61 Timepiece feature  
63 News items, for short  
64 Glommed  
65 Miss Cinders

## DOWN

- 66 Gives  
67 Predicament  
68 Beginning  
1 One of President Johnson's beaques  
2 "Genesis" figure  
3 Officer under Custer  
4 Californian shrub  
5 Port near Naples  
6 Give off  
7 Bath powder  
8 A Guthrie  
9 Responds  
10 Confused  
11 Norse god  
12 Dispatched  
13 Egg-fryer's aid  
21 He "stung like a bee"  
22 First-timer  
25 Earrings' settings  
26 Fortune tellers?  
27 Bless, in a way  
28 "Night Court" prop  
29 Tough fabric  
30 Gaudi's land  
31 Sicilian volcano: Var.  
32 Implores  
35 Barker of Hollywood  
37 Australia and New Zealand, to the English  
39 Sunday service  
40 Range rush  
48 Hawk  
49 Part of a cheer  
49 E.E. or T.H.  
51 Political group  
52 Vowel  
53 Biting  
54 Tommy's gun  
55 Callee — Ma  
56 TV equine  
57 Cleopatra's waterway  
58 Bulldog's school  
62 Fellow

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

JACK SERIF SHAW  
ELLIE PRADO WASH  
ROUE RICER ERYE  
KEEPBACK KEEPIN  
URIS TEXT  
KEEPAK KEEPSOUT  
ELROY TEMPO WRY  
BERN KEEPS KNAP  
ONO BERLE HEURE  
BARKEEPS KEEPER  
ALPS NEAP  
KEEPAK KEEPSOFF  
WARP ICEUP ALIT  
ARIA MUNRO KILN  
INNS ELTON EDEN

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## 'GIVE THE FIEND HIS DUE'

Both vulnerable. South deals.

## NORTH

♠ 7 5

♥ J 5 2

♦ K 7 2

♣ A Q J 5 2

## WEST

♠ 10 8 6 4 2

♥ K 4

♦ Q 9

♣ 10 8 6 4

## EAST

♠ Q 9 3

♥ Q 10 8 7

♦ J 10 8 3

♣ K 9

## SOUTH

♠ A K J

♥ A 9 6 3

♦ A 6 5 4

♣ 7 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♣

Be wary if someone hands you a suit combination and asks: "How do you play this holding?" The correct response is: "For how many tricks?"

This hand illustrates the point nicely. The auction was accurate and fast. The play was as speedy, but way off target.

West led a spade, taken in the closed hand. Declarer finessed the jack of clubs, and East made an

excellent play by letting dummy hold the trick. Not unnaturally, declarer returned to hand and repeated the finesse. When it lost and the suit broke 4-2, as was only to be expected, declarer found that, without an enemy error, there was no way to come to nine tricks. Down one.

Had declarer needed four tricks from the club suit, or had there been another entry to the table, his play of the hand would have been absolutely correct. But declarer had six tricks in the other suits, so three club tricks would have been enough for game. And there was only one side-suit entry to the board.

To assure the contract against anything but an outlandish club split, declarer should simply have ducked a club at trick two. Suppose East were to win the nine and return a spade. (No other return would make a difference.) Declarer wins and now takes the club finesse. East wins and clears declarer's last spade stopper, but declarer can get to dummy with the king of diamonds to take three club tricks and, with them, his contract. True, declarer might have taken 11 tricks with a successful club finesse and a lucky break, but why rely on Dame Fortune rather than winning technique?

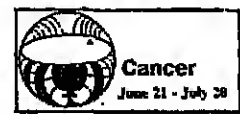


"He says he's been swimming around in circles for three days."

## YOUR STARS



Some things cannot be but quite a number of things can be changed for the better. Try not to leave too much to chance. Take the best possible care of your health. Be confident.



Not everything will be to your liking but you should try to make the best of it. Avoid jumping to conclusions. Something you have been trying to learn will now be to fall into place. Be tolerant.



You will be on the tense side and you should do all you can to relax. Your lucky numbers are 3 and 22. Try to use a part of the day to tidy up. And do not spend too long watching television. Be sensible.



You would do well to spend a little time examining your prejudices and disposing of them. Make sure you do not neglect the cultural side of your life. If you keep others waiting they will return the "compliment." Be fair.



You should avoid eating too many sweet things, or should you drink too much. Something you thought you had already done will turn out still to need doing. Do your best not to make a nuisance of yourself. Be courteous.



Do not neglect some small infection, if you do it is liable to get worse. If you undertake repairs make sure you have the right tools for the job. Do not rely on guesswork and do not trust to luck either. Be generous.



A scheme that promises to make you rich without much effort is to be taken very much with a pinch of salt. You would be wrong to spend money in the expectation that you will have a lucky win — wait until it actually happens, if it does. Be truthful.



Not everything is as you would wish it to be but things could have been a lot worse. When you should be methodical, do not try to make progress overnight. Avoid being untidy and take better care of your personal appearance. Be frugal.



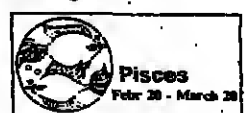
Try not to think of work today but do not spend the day just doing nothing. Take even more care than usual when going up and down stairs. There will still be time to correct a mistake you have made. Be reliable.



If you have a slightly upset stomach as you could well have taken care, best to eat only sparingly. If you expect others to do exactly what you would wish them to you will be disappointed. Be less self-opinionated.



You will be proved to have been right, but do not boast about it. Do not think you are the only one who matters. And show more respect for other people's opinions and foibles. Be moderate.



You will not be feeling at your best and would do well to take it easy for the day. Try not to dwell too much on the past and do not allow yourself to be harassed by regrets. Try to do something that will please your partner. Be deserving.



"That guy in room 3401 wants to know when the elevator's gonna be fixed."



"The main thing with a horse is you've got to make sure he knows who's the boss."



# A funny thing is happening to Elaine Paige

By Ktima Heathcote

DIMINUTIVE singer-actress Elaine Paige is seriously trying to be funny. And that is quite a new sort of role for her.

She usually goes for serious and demanding acting parts, like her West End triumphs in *Evita* and *Chess*.

But the five-foot bundle of dynamic energy wants more laughs. So in her latest stage role, Elaine is playing the funny girl — in *Anything Goes*.

Looking her usual poised and pristine self, Elaine says: "I want to lose my middle-of-the-road identity and become more contemporary."

Starring in a £1.5 million remake of Cole Porter's hit Broadway musical *Anything Goes* was just the solution Elaine was searching for.

The deal-offering almost £5,000 a week for a one-year run in the show — has softened the blow of losing the leading role in the Hollywood movie version of *Evita* to Meryl Streep.

It also gives her the chance to play hot gossamer Reno Sweeney — a zany character with punchlines that will have the audience in hysterics.

She says: "I saw the show in New York and really enjoyed it. The part is very different from the heavy and demanding roles I usually play. It is more light-hearted and that's what attracted me."

But while her acting career is taking off, Elaine's personal life has hit an all time low.

Her name has often been linked with the millionaire lyricist Tim Rice, who is already married but recently separated from his wife.

But there are rumours that their tempestuous affair has ended. Reports say that Elaine gave Rice the same ultimatum he once received from his wife Jane: "It's her or me."

And close friends of Rice claim he has decided to say goodbye to Elaine, even though Mrs Rice has already served divorce papers upon her husband.

Elaine, who is usually tight lipped about her private life, would not confirm or deny reports about the split, claiming: "I do not discuss my private life, it's so boring."

She does, however, admit to suffering a private anguish — no marriage and no children. She says: "I'm certainly the sort of woman who likes having a relationship. I'm old-fashioned in the sense that I want to marry and start a family."

But as an independent, successful woman, it worries her that the biological clock is ticking away against her and she may never have children.

Another stumbling block in Elaine's life has been first night jitters. So, while she treads the boards of her old haunt, London's Prince Edward Theatre, for rehearsals in *Anything Goes*, her thoughts will not be far away from the time she almost quit her glittering singing career because of stage fright.

Elaine, 39, explains: "It got so bad I thought I might have to give up my career. I've felt physically ill and in total panic before I go on stage."

"I seriously thought about it. I didn't know any other alternative. I thought,

From serious singer-actress to funny girl — that is the challenge Elaine Paige has set herself. She is to star in a new London production of Cole Porter's musical *Anything Goes*.



Elaine Paige sings her heart out in *Anything Goes*.

"What else can I do? I had this terrible fear and the easiest way was to run away and not face up to it."

Elaine's anxiety attacks grew steadily worse while she was on the last leg of her 1987 British tour. She recalls: "I was aware of it prior to the start of my tour, but I was so well rehearsed and I knew I had to do the shows."

"But on one of the dates I did something I've never done before — I dried up. It was while I was singing *I Know Him So Well* from *Chess*."

Elaine pauses for a second before continuing: "That was when I realised I had a real problem. I knew from that moment that every performance I gave after that, especially that song, I would have the fear that I would do it again."

"It got to the point where I was out of control. I threw up. I was shaking, trembling, everything, because I was so worried I would forget the words."

The pressure did not cease for Elaine, a self-confessed perfectionist, even when she was in *Evita*. While her fan club was growing and critics were lavishing her with praise, Elaine was loathing all the publicity.

She explains: "Looking back on it I think what a shame I never enjoyed it. It was awful. It was so terrifying. I was suddenly famous overnight. Imagine what that did to my little life."

"It was frightening. I had nobody. I was totally unprepared. I'm totally the wrong sort of person for show business. I'm the opposite of a show-off — performing scares the hell out of me!"

As the star of a thousand and more live stage performances, Elaine admits she is a strong determined character. But she confesses that beneath the cool, calm exterior lies a shy, nervous woman.

These days, though, Elaine has learned

how to cope with the panic that suddenly wells up inside. Help came when she visited her doctor about a virus. He referred her to a specialist who taught Elaine meditation and correct breathing which she now practices daily.

She says: "I am over it now, thank God. I sought help. I re-learned all the things that I knew anyway, things that I learned at drama school but had forgotten about, such as breathing and relaxation."

Elaine explains: "When you get tense and nervous it shuts off things like the flow of oxygen and blood and your heart palpitations. My heart used to go bang, bang, bang."

Elaine's strive for perfection began as a child. She recalls: "It's part of my character. If I have a dinner party, I like everything to be absolutely right."

"I think I get it from my mother. She

was a milliner and I would watch her as a child spending hours making hats out of virtually nothing. I set standards for myself and that puts a lot of pressure on, but it's the way I am. I don't want to be second rate or second best."

Elaine, the daughter of a Hertfordshire estate agent, was determined not to fade into obscurity after she made her first stage appearance at the London Palladium in the pantomime *Babes In The Wood*.

She was in the chorus, aged just 17 and still at stage school. She recalls: "As I walked through the stage door each day I used to imagine all the great stars who had appeared there, especially my idol Judy Garland, and I'd daydream of one day starring there myself."

And she did 19 years later when she gave the final performance of her 1987 British tour. It was a fitting finale for a woman who belts out her songs in a big way.

Then came her American debut in 1988, singing *Don't Cry For Me, Argentina* and *Memories at a Tribute to Broadway* in front of President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy at the White House.

This was followed by the release of her new LP, *The Queen Album* on which she sings the work of rock band Queen. It was one of Tim Rice's ideas — one she admits she is proud of. But she wants to jump off the roundabout of concert/record/album/record and is now concentrating on her acting career.

Last year she made a *Christmas Save The Children* TV special and record and two full-length drama films for British television. Audiences have already seen Elaine in *A View of Harry Clark*, the first in a new season of plays for British TV. Elaine teams up with British comedian Griff Rhys Jones to play a couple whose happiness is threatened when the husband turns to drink.

"It's a new departure for me," says Elaine, who is also starring in another play, *Unexpected Laughter*, to be shown later in the year. She adds: "As the years roll on things change, your values, what you want from life. I was grateful these TV plays came along. They have given me a taste for acting. I wanted another challenge. Something new."

Elaine admits she still finds her work tiring. But then like a lot of stars, she has had to work hard for her success. She says: "I've never been handed anything, nothing in my life. I've never been given anything."

And she intends to commit herself 100 per cent to acting. But will the jitters get hold of her again? "No," she says. "I have a new approach which has changed my life. I am calmer. I still get nervous, but it is not out of control any more."

"I do like my life and enjoy being single. I don't have to answer to anybody. I can do exactly what I want."

"I'm much happier now about a lot of things and not so concerned about tomorrow."

"But the older I get the more it's on my mind to settle down and have children. Yet you can't change what has happened and I have been lucky so far. I'm pretty happy."

## Entertainment briefs

### Tony Awards

KATHLEEN Turner, current star of a revival of *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* on Broadway, will host the 44th annual Tony Awards TV special on June 3.

The ceremonies, presented by the American theatre wing and the League of America theatres and producers, will be broadcast by CBS-TV New York's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre.

Winners in 19 competitive categories will be presented with trophies along with the regional theatre award and other Tony Honours. The Tonys were founded in 1947 as a memorial to Antoinette Perry, chairwoman of the American Theatre Wing during World War II.

### New Candy comedy

John Candy will star in the \$18 million comedy *Over My Dead Body* to begin production this fall for Dino De Laurentis Communications. Written by Babaloo Mandel and Lowell Ganz, *Over My Dead Body* will be directed by Eugene Levy, who also contributed to the screenplay.

The film will be shot on location in Monte Carlo and tell the story of three American couples who are drawn to the French Riviera for different reasons and end up implicated in a murder.

### TV try

Barbara Hershey and Brian Dennehy, whose careers in recent years have been mostly in feature films, will co-star on May 22 in the CBS-TV movie "Killing In A Small Town".

The two-hour drama presents Hershey in the role of a matron in a bucolic Texas town who strives to be the perfect wife and mother. When her best friend is murdered, she becomes the prime suspect.

Dennehy enters the scene as the Hershey character's brilliant defense attorney. Hal Holbrook will be seen as a psychologist and Richard Gilliland appears in the role of Hershey's husband.

### 48 Hours

Principal photography has been completed on *Another 48 Hours*, starring Eddie Murphy and Nick Nolte reprising their characters as the convict and the cop in pursuit of felons.

The pair starred in the original *48 hours* for Paramount in 1982 under the direction of Walter Hill who also directed the Sequel. The jailbird and the San Francisco police detective have been reunited to run down an elusive crime lord.

Co-starring with the successful team are Brion James, Kevin Tighe and Ed O'Ross in a screenplay written by John Fasano, Jeb Stuart and Larry Gross.



Katherine Hepburn: new role



Tony Orzen looks like an Enid Blyton hero ... but every day he sifts through stories about reincarnation, out-of-body experiences and messages from the dead.

## FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

You can reduce your risks of heart attack

QUESTION: I'm vigorous man for my age, and very health conscious. However, I think the odds are against me since my father and both his brothers departed at an early age from heart attacks. The more I read about the risk factors for heart attack, the more confused I become. Is it really possible to lower my chances of heart attack and achieve a normal life span?

ANSWER: Very possible. Many doctors believe a person can lower his or her risks of such attacks by following good health rules. There are some things that cause heart attacks, to many things, including improved diagnostic methods, new medications, bypass surgery, and better understanding what roles risk factors like age, sex, smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, obesity, diabetes and lack of exercise actually play in heart attacks.

About 85 per cent of all heart disease cases in the United States may be attributed to modifiable factors, including smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, alcohol, salt, oral contraceptives and obesity.

So stop smoking, and being around those who do, as much as possible. Cigarette smoking is the single most

preventable cause of heart disease and death in the United States. If you have tried "everything" to quit smoking but have not been able to do so, talk with your physician.

Seriously curtailing excessive alcohol use and eliminating as much salt, sugar and animal fats as possible from your diet also can help decrease chances for an attack by lowering your blood pressure and cholesterol.

Increasing consumption of fish (some say as many as three meals of fish per week are needed) may prove beneficial in lowering cholesterol levels. Also, if you are sedentary, slowly but steadily increasing a regular programme of exercise (try three times each week) can help.

Obesity raises blood pressures — weight loss helps reverse it. Also, obesity increases cholesterol levels and possibly other heart-damaging conditions. If you are obese, you must lose weight to be healthy. Weight loss will be easier for you if you increase your exercise at the same time, and stay with the exercise after you have become thin to help you keep the fat off and maintain your health.

Additionally, new findings seem to indicate that taking one aspirin daily can help prevent heart attacks in some people suffering from hardening of the arteries who have several heart attack risk factors.

So you see, it may not be the easiest thing to do, but by applying all the tips I have given you here (or at least some of them), you can actively wage war on the disease you fear, and increase your odds to the point where you may never suffer from it.

By Frances Hubbard

THE spirits were against me when I interviewed Tony Orzen, the director of *Psychic News*. For a start, he had forgotten I was coming — and when I played back my tape later, it went mysteriously silent just after he mentioned reincarnation.

Tony, who runs the world's only independent spiritualist newspaper, didn't seem surprised. He is used to far stranger and more threatening things. Matters like premonitions, out-of-body experiences and messages from the beyond are his bread and butter.

During his 18 years at the paper, Tony has witnessed weird sights which can have only one explanation — that ghosts, or spirits, are all around us. He claims they are a simple fact of death and his calm, no-nonsense approach reflects his belief that there is nothing to fear from them.

Tony looks more like a large schoolboy than a mystic. In his glasses and sensible sweater, with his trusty mongrel Rufus at his side, he could double as an Enid Blyton hero. He isn't psychic and he doesn't even believe in astrology, but he is convinced of life after death.

We met in his tiny basement office, lined with well-thumbed books on the paranormal. Tony was eager to take the dread out of what is usually a taboo subject. "When we die, I believe we step off this world and on to the next one," he said.

"It's not wrong to make contact with that world, no matter what certain religious groups might say. It's perfectly natural and, if the circumstances are right, the dead can return to us."

"They're drawn through to this side by the love or affection they've felt for a living person and their desire to get in touch. That's the most powerful bond there is. Also, I really do think we have spirit guides who watch over us and help us to make the right decisions in life."

Tony believes 99 per cent of the people who claim to have contacted dead friends or relatives through mediums are telling the truth. But he does meet the occasional fake — and he can spot them from a mile away.

"After a while, you get an instinct about who's genuine and who isn't," he told me. "The vast majority of people who write in to *Psychic News* are honest. But I think people who say they've spoken to Stalin, or Marilyn Monroe or Elvis Presley are deluding themselves."

"It just doesn't work that way. You can't conjure up spirits at will, especially if

As the editor of a newspaper devoted entirely to the psychic and supernatural Tony Orzen clearly believes there's life after death ... but he's quick to discredit the fakes who claim they're in touch with Elvis Presley or Marilyn Monroe!

there's no genuine link between them and the people at the sitting. The acid test is the bond of affection between the dead and the living. Why should Marilyn Monroe turn out for just anyone?"

Tony, a 38-year-old hacheler who shares his Belgrave flat with Rufus and two cats, had his own dramatic encounter with the "other side" a few years ago when he was introduced to a long deceased relative.

He went to a spiritual meeting, led by medium Nellie Knight, one Christmas — and left with seasonal greetings from one of his ancestors.

"Old Nellie arranged us all in a circle and then produced a 'seance trumpet' — a kind of aluminium hearing aid that old-fashioned mediums use to help them listen to the spirits," Tony remembered.

"Suddenly, this trumpet shot up in the air and started to zoom around the ceiling. It wasn't a fake, believe me, because there was a big Christmas tree in the middle of the room and no-one could have reached over that to control the trumpet."

"It spelt out the letters C-L-A-R-E in the air when Nellie asked who was there and everybody just assumed it was a woman's name. But I knew I'd had an Uncle Clarence, called Clare his family, who'd been an artist. I asked, 'What did Clare do on earth?' — deliberately not mentioning the gender."

The answer came back, "He was an artist." Exactly right! There was no-one else in the room who could possibly have known that and, even if I tried as hard as possible to find some other explanation, I couldn't.

"Clarence was just dropping by to say 'hello'. I didn't feel frightened and neither did anyone else in the room because it was quite a friendly encounter. In fact, that's true of nearly all communication with the dead."

It all sounded far too cosy to fit in with the crystal balls and ectoplasm tradition of seances made popular by horror films. I wondered if Tony had expected something more momentous to happen.

"Oh no," he said with a wry smile. "People regard life after death as some-

thing unknown, terrible and awful — quite wrongly in my opinion. They tend to judge it by the Hollywood yardstick of moving tables and flickering candles."

"But most people who go to a medium will be disappointed if they want to see special effects. The whole point is to make contact, not to watch a performance."

Tony is down-to-earth that it's easy to forget he edits a paper devoted exclusively to topics in the "crank" category. He has faced his share of snide comments about "ghost writers" but he says attitudes towards spiritualism are now changing.

"Over the last 15 years I've seen a definite shift towards 'new age' and occult or paranormal books by the major publishing houses. People are interested in those subjects and they want to know more about them. Even TV programmes are treating those areas more seriously than they used to."

"If people are willing to explore the paranormal, we're just satisfying a demand. And you have to remember that my job doesn't seem strange to me. It's part of my life now. I don't find the dead half as disturbing as most of the living I meet when I'm standing on an underground train!"

Tony has met interesting people from both categories during the course of his job but one of those he remembers best is a Brazilian psychologist (still living) who is regularly taken over by the spirit of great painters.

Louiz Gasparetto has produced thousands of paintings, which he sells for charity, in styles that are identical to real Van Goghs, Picassos and Rembrandts — to name but a few. His work has the art experts scratching their heads and collectors nervously wondering about the authenticity of their treasures.

Tony shared a few hours with Louiz when he visited London 15 years ago. "It was a remarkable experience and it left a very deep impression on me," Tony said.

"Louiz went into a very deep trance — so deep that his eyes were closed — and in the space of about 50 minutes he produced 13 portraits which were every bit as good as the real thing."

"He didn't even use a brush — just his fingers — and at one point both hands were painting at the same time. I saw a Picasso in there, and a Monet, both produced by this totally untrained man who wasn't looking at the paper while he was working."

"No-one, not even a genius, could have done that by himself. In practical terms it simply wasn't possible, yet I saw it myself. Louiz couldn't remember a thing about it when he snapped back to consciousness because he'd been totally dominated by the visiting spirits."

One of the most popular and controversial subjects on the *Psychic News* letters page is out-of-body experiences. Tony has spoken to hundreds of people who claim to have hovered between life and death while they looked down on themselves from some invisible vantage point.

He told me: "Research into out-of-body, or near-death, experiences in countries as far apart as Iceland and America comes up with the same facts again and again."

"People have the sensation of floating upwards and seeing their bodies lying beneath them. They're perfectly lucid and they can hear snatches of conversation from the people below — and see small details like bald-spots."

"They always seem to feel themselves being drawn into a bright, white tunnel of light and sometimes they see the figure of a dead friend or relative beckoning at the end. Of course, we only hear this from people who survive! They're told, 'No, go back, your time isn't right yet.'"

"Then they'll wake up back at the scene of the accident or the operating theatre they've just left, sometimes in great pain — but very much alive. The stories can't be dismissed as pure fantasy because people are able to recount things they've seen or overheard while they've been disembodied."

"That has to be the best evidence of all that we do have some kind of spiritual after-life. I find it very comforting myself that atheists and Christians alike seem to share the same experience after death."

Tony's beliefs might be unconventional but there's an irresistible logic about his arguments. "In the sense that we're spiritual creatures anyway, there isn't yawning gap between life and death if our spirits survive," he said.

Personally, I'm looking forward to the chance to meet my grandparents again. I'm also looking forward to seeing the re-run of my life that I think we all get when we die. It'll be fascinating — and probably very embarrassing too!

## People

# Keeping up the good work with 'spirits'



## SNIPPETS



Mitsuru Yoza, 40, said to be a Yakuza gang member, is escorted by an immigration agent after he was arrested at his rented apartment on Osmena St. Makati.

**Leader of Yakuza arrested:** Immigration agents arrested a leader of the "Yakuza" gang who is being hunted by the Tokyo National Police for large-scale smuggling of marijuana and hand guns. Immigration Commissioner Andrea D. Domingo identified the suspect as Mitsuru Yoza, 40, of Okinawa, Japan, who was arrested at a suspected Yakuza "safe house" at the corner of Osmena St and Taguig St, Makati.

Reports reaching the Bureau of Immigration showed that Yoza has been coming in and out of the country for the past eight years by posing as an importer of fertilizer.

It was discovered, however, that Yoza had been making use of this cover to bring into Japan cache of marijuana and guns concealed in fertilizer cargoes.

The BI intelligence agents arrested another Japanese national wanted in his country for fraud amounting to Y1,858,600.

Information forwarded by the Japanese National Police to the BI showed that Tadaki Honda, 36, of Shizuoka, Shimoda City, Japan had swindled an electric appliance sales firm by pretending to be a physician representing a medical corporation.

He reportedly convinced the firm that he was in charge of building a big hospital in the town of Minami Izu.

Honda was able to procure from the appliance firm 93 items of electric goods. He disappeared without making any payment.

He slipped into the country on Jan 8, 1989 and his stay here expired last Sept 22.

When arrested, Honda failed to present his passport claiming that it was taken by a Japanese Yakuza member who made a deal with him.

**Meningitis outbreak:** The health department warned the public about the outbreak of meningococcal disease, a bacterial infection which develops into meningitis.

The Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) said three deaths and numerous cases have been reported in various hospitals in Metro Manila since April 1.

The disease is also prevalent in certain towns in Butuan, FETP specialists added.

The disease attacks both adults and children and prompt diagnosis and treatment are vital for the patient's survival since it develops rapidly into fatal meningitis.

Penicillin remains the only cure, but even those who come in close contact with patients should be treated with it to prevent the spread of the disease, FETP specialists added.

Symptoms include sudden fever, rashes or "pasa." The patient also deteriorates rapidly and suffers from shock or delirium within 12 to 36 hours.

**Move city jail out of the city:** Manila Mayor Gemiliano Lopez Jr said he would ask President Aquino to transfer the city jail outside Manila because it is very dangerous to the five million Manila residents. About 1,200 men and women are detained in the city jail.

The mayor told newsmen that he had been telling people in Manila that the city jail is a potential danger to the residents.

"What if all these inmates got loose from the jail at the same time?" Lopez asked, apparently referring to the incident early morning where masked rebel soldiers attacked the jail to free former Lt Col Billy Bibit.

Once the jail is transferred, the site will be converted into a commercial area, he said.

**6,140 illegal aliens held in Philippines:** A total of 6,140 foreigners who entered the country illegally are in different detention centers in the country, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said.

"We expect to have problems with Chinese, Indians, Middle Easterns and Sri Lankans who are seeking refuge in a third country but are temporarily in the Philippines," Domingo said.

Palawan alone, she said, has 6,000 illegal entrants applying for refugee status being processed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Thirty-nine Chinese illegal entrants, including women and children, are in the Fort Bonifacio detention centre since April 1989.

The refugee transit lounge in Paranaque has 85 illegal entrants who have been there for the last three years.

Another 16 Chinese illegal entrants are jailed in Palawan and will be transferred soon to the Intramuros Detention Centre.

The Philippines has been involved in the refugee problem because it is a signatory to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, Domingo explained. There are only six signatories in Asia to the 1951 Convention — China, Iran, Israel, Japan, Philippines and Yemen.

**Bulacan blaze:** A 30-minute fire destroyed four houses in Barangay San Juan, San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

Police said the houses were owned by Barangay captain Bonifacio Bades, Bernardo Reyes, Estelita Bades and Eugenio Bades. Police estimated the damage at P700,000.



**Arrested:** National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Altredo S. Lim (left) questions Andrew Ronald Liton (second from right) and Karla Marquez, a former movie star, who were arrested by NBI agents for alleged possession of "shabu," guns, bullets, and radio sets from their house. Looking on is Doroteo Rocha (second from left), anti-narcotics chief.

# What returning overseas workers should know

ANECITO ARENDAIN of Cainta, Rizal, now in his 40s, worked as a technician in Saudi Arabia from 1983 to 1987, and then again as a plumber in that country from 1988 to 1989. He has since been waiting to leave again. It never took him so long, and now he has problems.

What is a returning overseas contract worker (OCW) to do when he gets back, whether or not he is to leave again? Thousands and thousands like Arendain are in a sense and in varying degrees displaced. When I informed him that Jose N. Sarmiento, Administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) had told me last year that there were benefit packages for returning OCWs, one of which was easy cash loans to start a small business, it was like the sun broke through very dark clouds.

This writer went to the OWWA Building, corner Victoria and Solana Streets, Intramuros (Tel Nos. 404-528, 404-671, just in case) on Friday March 2, to inquire specifically on behalf of Arendain. Ms. Ching Burgos, executive assistant to Admin Sarmiento, very ably assured me that the Entrepreneurship Development Department (EDD) on the ground floor, through OWWA's Reentry Programme for Returning OCWs through Entrepreneurship Mediation (REPROEM), would see Arendain through his dilemma.

In the absence of EDD head Ms. Tonette Dixon, Mr. Freddie Gaité, EDD project specialist, was quite helpful. Based on the xerox copies of Arendain's papers which I presented, Gaité assured me that the former was indeed qualified, being a legal contract worker-returnee. All Mr. Arendain had to do was see him with his original papers, and the loaning process for minimum P15,000 for a small business of his choosing would right away begin. I gathered it could take very much less than the standard four months till Arendain got his loan.

REPROEM, said Gaité, lends from P5,000 to P2.5M (the latter sourced from the trade and industry department's Technology and Livelihood Resource Centre, or TLRC). For the smaller loans, 100 per cent collateral is required, with household appliances allowed as collateral. For the million-peso loans, groups of OCWs banded together are well eligible. Interest is low and every support appears to be given.

Even if the OCW-returnee has a set business in mind, there is a seminar, regularly scheduled by the EDD, to open up other possibilities. The priority thrust now is productivity or production. It's worth the while of OCWs to see what livelihood, business and management training and support can work for them.

On Thursday March 8, Arendain informed me that he had seen Gaité with my note of introduction, who had in fact moved fast. An ocular inspection of Arendain's house, also the intended site of his entrepreneurial bid, should be occurring just about at this writing. This case will show how fast the OWWA can respond to real need.

Still for the benefit of all OCWs who've returned or are still to return, the brochure on OWWA benefits, programmes and services to which all OCWs are entitled without payment of any membership fee whatsoever (contrary to rumours, or else please report to OWWA or to this column) is readily available upon request (a visit or a letter should do).

A few more tips on very interesting packages: (a) pre-departure LOAN: substantial cash assistance to newly-hired workers, for documentation expenses before departure, and as idleness fund for the family until first remittance of OCW salary.

(b) Family assistance loan: emergency cash assistance given to the OCW's family to pay off immediate family expenses.

They are others that look very good.

International Women's Day: A long way from 1857 in America

Whenever women march anywhere in the world,

they win something, somehow, for all women everywhere.

Lakbay-baihan was a motorcade-march by women's organizations last March 8, International Women's Day made historic in 1857 in America. The Gabriela National Women's Coalition made the voice of "the gentler sex" heard loud and clear on the US Bases. Gabriela's focus in this year's commemoration: "the immediate dismantling of these plaques which eat up the bodies and souls of our women and children." Piercing the veil of their gender's second-rate status in rights and law since colonial times, the women thus show that they know how they, and the nation, can be really free.

At 11:30 am March 8, this writer arrived at the Bonifacio Monument (commonly called "Monumento") landing point for motorcaders expected at noon from various points in Central Luzon. It was actually a longer wait, as familiar faces Ms. Hilda Narciso and Ms. Ditas Mallari of the Women's Crisis Centre kept me company, and as we rounded the Monument to the north side (with ease, thanks to the outpost policeman who escorted us upon my request, to avoid a much longer walk). Later, I learned that the delegation from my Layak, Bataan was delayed by tedious check-point searches allegedly for fugitive Cagayan Gov. Aguinaldo and his men. Delegations from Olongapo City were also expected to be delayed.

Gabriela chair Sr. Mary John Mananzan was in a quietly inspired mood, as she gave me a lift to the Quezon City Welcome Rotunda. Lakbay-baihan rendezvous point, from where the march would start. On the way, she waved on motorcaders sprinkling out of Monumento, as I sat in back with women advocates-friends Ms. Evangelina de Pedro and Ms. Teresa Balayan, thinking that we had after all come full circle from various points and taking various routes since Sister stood in our high school classrooms at St. Scholastica.

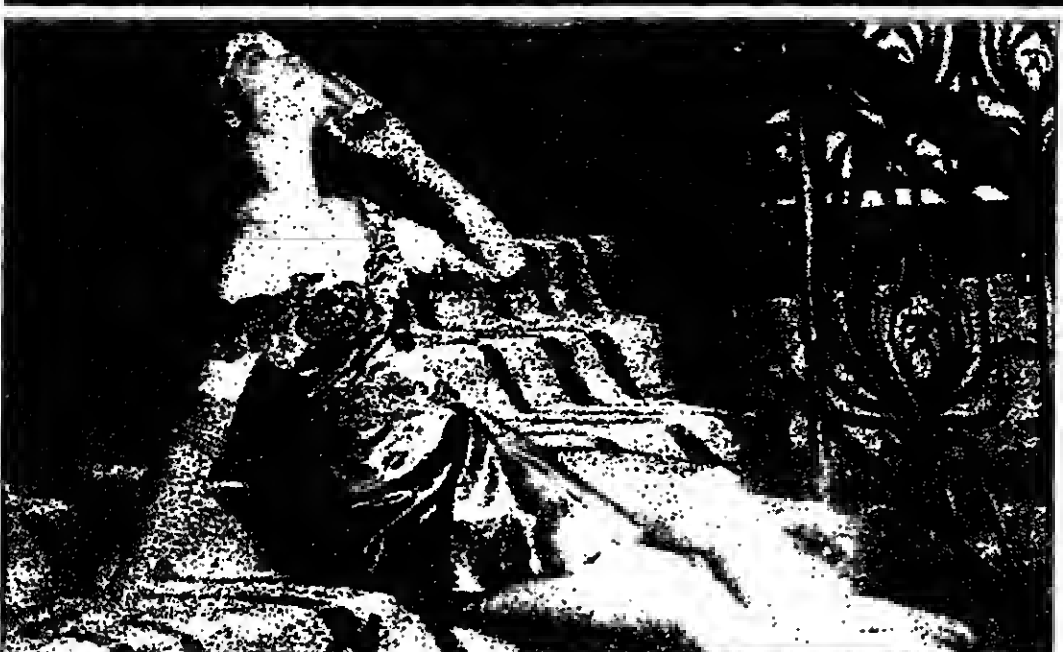
At Welcome, the stage-carrier, the banners, the

effigies and symbols of women's oppression brought by the US Bases were readied, the latter to be junked from garbage pushcarts in front of the US Embassy during the event highlight: the serving of notice of termination of the US-RP Military Bases Agreement. ("Let us shout our rejection of the Bases exploratory talks, for this is but a haggling session for the right price," say the women, "by which Philippine sovereignty and security could be sold. There is no other way but Out, and now!") They cite the culture of violence and destruction bred by the Bases: prostitution, drugs, rape, physical violence, AIDS, nuclear arms, from which one megaton could kill millions in Central Luzon in 15 seconds.

About 3:00 pm, I saw some 40 vehicles streaming in with banners of gold, silver-grey, blue, red, green, fuchsia, the multicolour combinations dominated by lilac or purple. I saw the banners of the Tondo Sanguniang Kristiyanong Komunidad (skk); Women's Resource and Research Centre (WRRRC); Samahan ng Malayang Kababaihang Nagkakaisa (Samaka); Amihan-Pambansang Pederasyon ng Kababaihang Maghuhukid, courage or Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees, and others.

I will also remember two things about Lakbay-baihan: one is Gabriela's reminder of the lesson of all March 8s since 1857, when thousands of American women garment workers marched against repressive factory-state policies — that rights are not granted, but won.

The second is that on this March 8, it rained. From a drizzle greeting my arrival at 11:30 by public bus, to a downpour at about 3:15 drenching Sister and Ms. Nella Sancho and other Gabriela leaders up front and the thousands who still braved the odds with only instant P15-bats and lilac bandannas as shields, I gleaned a message from the skies. Not so much that cloud-seeding from On High can dampen mass action, but more so, that life-giving to a parched land is best given to women.



French lace and plunging necklines

## Bondad's Bondage

For all the 15 years that Manuel Bondad has been in the couture business, he has kept alive the tradition of the old masters under whom he had trained — Emil Valdez, Casimiro Abad and Ernie Arandia — the Balenciagas of the '60s for whom draping is a prerequisite technique and the cut the ultimate art. Among today's bumper crop of designers, it is only Bondad, and maybe a few others, who can lay claim to being a couturier, a clothes maker, in the strict sense of the word — and in the grand tradition. He still insists on draping on the mannequin, cutting the cloth himself and fitting, until every seam and every fall of the cloth are infinitesimally right.

So one can understand why Manuel Bondad would never go into RTW mass production. The idea shocks him and horrifies him no end, this artist for whom couture is always haute and designs are divinely, decadently grandiose. Bondad is the high priest of drama. Last year at a reception in London for the Miss World candidates, he dressed up Dana Narvaez, the Philippine representative to the pageant, in a muslim-inspired ecrú gown dripping with seed pearls and thousands of Kapis shells for sequins. When she entered the hall, she made soft chiming and linking that drew all eyes to her imperious appearance. Drop-dead is

the key to many of Bondad's grandiose schemes. And they are schemes with painstaking workmanship. He creates Rococo or Byzantine effects with black crape, beaded and sequined, and made more opulent by a French lace and ostrich feathers. His little black dresses are arlas in high C, molto appassionante in velvet with rose appliques in satin and huge ribbons. And he thinks nothing of plunging the neckline, back and front, to heighten the suspense.

Even his barong dresses are unexpected. Instead of the calado, he uses chantilly and French heavy lace for a more cosmopolitan (read: glamorous) look. To perk

up his barong for men, he uses Indian sari cloth.

Bondad's high drama was staged at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila hotel last March 30, produced by Capricorn Ventures headed by his protegee Lorna Legaspi, reigning Miss Asia Quest, along with Mike Tan and Austin Sy. You guessed it, it was an opulent show of 140 all-couture creations against a magical garden setting featuring 19 different hues of roses, from mint green to lavender, provided and arranged by Kressler, Inc. The whole ballroom was actually transformed into a fabulous hower of blooms of lollage, in Bondad's signature grand lashion.

# She's got watchful eyes

I LOVE this job," Malou Santos enthuses. "Although it is not an easy one. This is not the usual eight-to-five job most women have. Ninety-five per cent of my time is spent out in the field visiting a maximum of three outlets and a minimum of one a day. There is never a day that I don't go around, well, sometimes there's a day off but even then, I make surprise visits to Jollibee, although not officially."

Petite and Pretty Malou is talking of her job as Food, Service and Cleanliness Supervisor (FSC) handling the audit team of one of our largest eating places, Jollibee, which has now fifty outlets in Metro Manila. Jollibee's food, service and cleanliness rules have very high standards and these should be strictly followed to the letter. Franchisee or not, these standards have to be maintained, otherwise there will be the devil to pay. Either the outlet is closed or given a warning by the management.

Malou's job is to inspect these outlets seeing to it that the foods served contain fresh ingredients, warm upon reaching the customers who should be satisfied with what they are eating. Employees must be polite, courteous and helpful to the customers. Smile and be cheerful when greeting them, is one of the rules which must be complied. Cleanliness should prevail in the outlet. Even in the back area hygiene and sanitation are required. Servers should have neat and clean clothes.

"In other words," says Malou, "it is the totality of the store that I observe when I come to inspect. Sometimes people complain that they are made to wait for ten minutes before they can be served with chicken joy. Now, I ask them why since we required fast service in all our outlets. Perhaps the main reason is that there

are too many customers ordering chicken joy and they are not enough for the customers. Although we give allowances for that, if possible, more chicken joy should be prepared so that people will not wait even for ten minutes."

Malou is a graduate of B.S. food and nutrition at the College of the Holy Spirit. For a time, after graduation, she catered for friends at the same time for a professional license.

After the board exams, she went to Canada to take up her uncle's offer to take charge of an export firm which participated in a Vancouver Fair called the Philippine National Exhibition. The Philippines was the best country, and all products from the Philippines were distributed to the different stores there.

"It was a showcase for the Philippines and I learned a lot from there. I stayed for nearly a month and I learned several cultures of the different nationalities when they came to buy our products. A buyer is allowed to return what he has bought if he does not like it and the money is refunded to him. Anybody who ends up not liking the colour of what he bought, can return it. Here, it's 'no return, no exchange.'"

Malou has been with Jollibee for seven years now and is quite enjoying her work. Her friends could not understand why a pretty woman, framed in a compact figure with intelligence and a capacity for hard work, should still retain her single-blessedness.

"I'll forsake my single life if I can find someone who is tolerant of my job, is stable, one whom I can respect and most of all, one whom I love," she laughs. "It's hard to find such men nowadays but don't worry I may find him someday and that will be the Day."

Malou reveals that part of Jollibee's programme is to hire "mystery shoppers," just ordinary people who are requested by management to eat in certain outlets pretending to be customers so that they can secretly check if these outlets adhere to the food, service and cleanliness standard of Jollibee. Through this programme, management also learns what foods are saleable and what are not. Outlets that have very high standards are recommended for awards during Jollibee's anniversary celebrations.

Once, it was Malou's off-day and after shopping for a while, she was hungry and went to the nearest Jollibee outlet. Upon seeing her, everyone was on the alert and she was asked if she's going to rate them that day.

"How could I?" she told them. "I'm not here on an official capacity for this is my off-day. See, I'm not uniform." However, she kept her eyes open for any flaw. The people there naturally were extra careful not to commit any mistake. Of course, when Malou inspects, she does not inform them when or in what outlet so that she'd catch violators or idlers off-guard.

"That way, everyone should be on the alert."

Malou's first ambition was to be a veterinarian for she loves to breed dogs. She used to but since she joined Jollibee, she had no more time for it.

"Breeding dogs take a lot of time, too. But I still attend dog shows and right now I have four of my own, a cocker and three others which are of mixed breed. My grandfather breeds dogs and I guess I was influenced by him."

She has nothing against Women's Lib. There are certain areas which she is in favour of and areas which are not to her liking. She still retains her

Philippine values acquired when still a child.

"When I went to the States for a vacation last year, I discovered that the women there, even the Filipino women are very liberated. I'm partly liberated, too but I was shocked about the goings-on-there. Respect for elders seems to have vanished in thin air. The older people there told me, 'Hija, it's so clear that you are not from this place because you still use 'po' and 'ho' in your conversations. I'm not saying that I'm purely the

Maria Clara type but at least, we Filipino women should try to retain our old values and views especially on love and marriage and courtship."

"Definitely," she opines. "I'm still for the old traditional views on courtship and marriage. But let's not talk about it now. It's really a question of priorities and mine is still Jollibee."

Whoever he is who can pry Malou away from Jollibee is certainly lucky, more if he can make her say, "I do" to him.



## Music buff

● *Heartbeat of Love* — Pia Zadori (OctoArts). Bold actress Pia Zadori returns via her new album, *Pia Z*, featuring this single produced and arranged by studio vet, Narada Michael Walden. A danceable cut indeed.

● *All I Wanna Do Is Dance* — Collette (OctoArts). Recent Manila visitor, Collette — after the hits *Ring My Bell* (remake) and *Ordinary Man* — delivers another foot-stomping dance tune called *All I Wanna Do Is Dance*.

● *What Kind of Man Would I Be* — Chicago (WEA). Lifted off the group's Greatest Hits 1982-1989 album, I'm sure you've heard this one released way back in 1988. The WEA people deemed it wise to reissue this ballad to promote Chicago's compilation.

● *Just Between You and Me* — Low Gramm (WEA). The voice behind Foreigner's *Cold as Ice* and *I Want to Know What Love Is* (both sold 100,000 copies), this is his second LP. Taken from his latest LP, *Long Haul*, look, this single is American Top 40 at its best.

● *Don't Say Goodbye* — Anthony Thomas (OctoArts). After losing BMG, the new local recording company now operating under new management, Octo looked deeper into smaller, but otherwise potent, labels like this one called Next Plateau. Hoping to squeeze the label's potential to the fullest, I say the gamble is paying off quite nicely.

● *Right Back Where We Started From* (OctoArts). Another out of those untapped resources from a small label (Fanfare). All rebashed singles — like this one — due to the listener's familiarity with them (depending on their age), are instant hits. Not like new songs that need promos and radio plugs (payola), not to mention the dance contest that proliferate on noontime television shows.

● *Keep It Together* — Madonna (WEA). The fifth single off the teasing lady of rock, Madonna, will be fast another run-off-the-mill type (read: *Transcendental*). So-so hit. "Nuff said."

● *Simply* — Sara Hickman (WEA). After getting nothing but ho-hum singles for this issue of WQ, here comes a discovery.

## THE 'MISS SAIGON' DOUBLE LP. NOW AVAILABLE

I just got a copy of the *Miss Saigon* — the original London cast recording — double cassette, and just looking at it gives me chills up and down my spine. Lea Salonga is undoubtedly the first Filipino artist to gain international success, after Freddie Aguilar's *Amik* (but this one pales in comparison), giving our country the much-needed media mileage and recognition all over the world.

The double cassette release, as in most of WEA's products, is packed with plenty of colored (5 fold) photos of the cast, including liner notes from Mark Steyn. And hearing the songs feels like you're actually seeing it live in London. They say she's coming back home for a much-deserved break, but in the meantime, does Cory's government plan to welcome her with a big bang? Sure hope so...

NOTES: Joey Ayala recently played in Red Rocks, venue for underground groups, last March 19 to a full capacity crowd. New songs were unveiled by the Davao-based artist that night. Guess who was in the crowd? Apa Ongpin... Emilio Tuzon, owner of R.I. as busted by NARCOCOM, agents with illegal possession of shabu and firearms. Meanwhile, his sister Marta is taking over the FM station... Fan Club, a foreign dance group from Octo, is coming over to do a promotional tour. Heard that two original members will give interviews to the press... An insider intimates to this writer that their once-upon-a-time baby is harping about being a "fresh delight" queen with no new releases in sight. The insider also told me that her former charismatic lady is jealous of another female artist getting all the attention these days.



Manly Paner

# Lost for twenty hours

THERE are certain types of people who are drawn to the supernatural and... I must confess I am one of them!" reveals Manny Paner, husband to movie actress Daisy Romualdez and former San Miguel Beer basketball player.

Manny grew up in Naalad, a remote and small barrio somewhere in Cebu where trees and coconuts grew in abundance. Populated by 500 families, almost everyone knew each other.

Manny describes the place as too far from civilization, a place ideal for one who wants peace and solitude, and most of all, for "engkantos."

"My mother being the village priest," he continues, "as well as herbario, she knew all the tales about the haunted places, the mangkukulams and the aswangs. She personally treated a village girl, presumably lured by the invisible creatures of the underworld, who came back with mental shock. These tales made me wonder when I would encounter them too. I found out I didn't have to wait too long."

He remembers, "I was six when my friends and I went to play near the riverbank. We saw it was more shady there than under the balet tree so we decided to take a nap under the tree instead. When I woke up, I saw the eyes of the whole village upon me. They seemed to be shocked to find me there."

"I found out I had been lost for 20 hours. The whole village population joined in the search and it was only at 10 am of the following day that I was found asleep under the balet tree. They told me they had skirted the area for several times before seeing me at 10 am."

"An old man voiced out what everyone feared: 'The engkantos must have taken a fancy to him so they kept him for several hours.' From that time on, Manny's parents became overly protective of him. He was never allowed to go out alone — much less when darkness had set in."

At 15 however, he shunned this protective attitude of his parents. At five feet six inches in height he thought he was already a full grown man. He wanted his share of independence. He would go out and stay with friends till the wee hours. Serenading and attending fiestas with his barakda became a favourite pastime. His parents could not do anything about it.

"Once," he narrates, "after a barana session at a neighbouring barrio, my friends and I started our trek back home. It was a beautiful night with the moon full and bright. We had a grand time kidding one another that the girl we had just visited had her



eyes fixed on me. The silence of the night was broken by our loud laughter. Upon reaching the balet tree (the one under which I had some unusual experience as a child), we paused a while thinking we heard the sounds of rustling leaves. Looking up at the same time, we were amazed to see the whole tree shaking. Leaves fell all around. There was neither rain nor wind that evening. Shocked, we looked at one another and then scampered to different directions. We converged in our house, the nearest refuge. My mother didn't know whether to get angry at us or pity us."

"It was then that we realized that we were only brave in front of normal people, but amidst an invisible creature, we could be the greatest cowards. We thought we heard laughter and to our surprise we found we were laughing at ourselves."

It wasn't long after this incident that Manny came to Manila. He became one of the solid mainstays of the San Miguel Beer basketball team. He developed a habit of inserting a minute image of the Sto Nino inside his sock. Asked whether he depended on the Sto Nino for his team's victory, he answered, "Absolutely not! I had the image with me for protection against physical injury. I was afraid of a fracture or a bone dislocation."

Rough playing was already a practice then and some players could be violent, so long as I had the Sto Nino image in my sock, I felt safe."

The supernatural encounters continued even when the Paners moved to Matimtiman St., Quezon City, in 1977.

"We rented a bungalow with a billiard room and a mezzanine — just ideal for Daisy and me," he recalls. "I was particular about the billiard room because I love the game. So I took time fixing it. I was observing how I could add more light when, looking up, I saw the fluorescent lamp slowly falling. I expected it to break into pieces, but to my amazement it didn't. I picked up the lamp, put it back in its case and switched on the light. It was still okay. Though puzzled, I just shrugged off the incident as an unusual case."

A week later, at around 10 pm Daisy and I were awakened by heavy footsteps. They stopped near our bedroom door and knocks followed. After some hesitation, I opened the door but there was no one. I went back to bed. Nothing strange followed."

Three days after that, footsteps began again, this time accompanied by clanging of chains. Neither Daisy nor I stood up to open the door. We agreed to ignore it. We hoped that

whoever was trying to frighten us would eventually give up after realising we were not afraid."

"I was wrong. In the weeks that followed, the incidents got worse. The heavy footsteps and the knockings now occurred three times a week. On the fourth week, I found myself being dragged from the bed. I would have fallen had I not awoken on time. These strange happenings were not only manifested to Daisy and me, but to the maids as well."

Even after a month, the strange happenings continued. "We invited my mother to come over from Cebu so she could instruct us on what to do. She ordered us to kill a native chicken, sprinkle blood on all the windows and doors of the house. We cooked the chicken meat without any salt and offered it to the spirit, for appeasement."

"To our dismay, the occurrences did not cease. Another herbario told us to have four candles as big as the house posts made. But for me my mother's ritual was the last straw. Daisy and I made the decision to move out of the house. Neighbours gave us the feedback that death struck the family of the previous occupants and the wake lasted for almost three months. They had waited for the arrival of a member of the family from the States. They thought the spirit of the dead person might not have

wanted any other occupant in the house."

He recalls how unnerved he was on their last day in the house. At around 10 pm I must have been half asleep because I thought I dreamed of Daisy shouting for help. On waking, I was stunned to see her being dragged by the foot by an invisible hand. Daisy was holding on tightly to the corner of the bed. I suddenly grabbed her and the invisible object stopped pulling her. The usually brave Daisy was so frightened and hysterical that she woke up the entire household that night."

The basketball player has had strange adventures with the number 7 too. Any year ending in seven proves to be a significant one in the life of Manny Paner.

"It all started in 1957. I just didn't know why I developed lung infection when I used to be so healthy. It almost turned into active TB had I not been hospitalised in time," he recalls.

"In 1967, I was riding a motorbike together with two friends. This was in Cebu. We were about to make a right turn when out of nowhere came a jeep. I lost my balance and before I realized it we had a head on collision. Thrown off three metres away from my motorbike, I had a broken kneecap which kept me hospitalised for a month. The irony of it all was, my friends just suffered some scratches and even the driver of the jeep came out of the accident unscathed."

"Then came 1977. That was the year we lived in the haunted house and of the recurrence of my ulcer."

"In 1987, I almost met the grim reaper. Having just had an operation on a troublesome haemorrhoid, I wanted to make up for lost time as a player. I got the go-signal of my doctor to attend a practice session. Perhaps I might have overdone it for when I went home at around 5 pm I noticed a little bleeding. By 7 pm however, the bleeding had become profuse. I had to be rushed to the hospital. At 10 pm my heart stopped beating. I was rushed to the operating room and revived."

"I consider these supernatural encounters as sort of an awakening, an awareness that there are really oo-visible beings. The physical pains I experienced turned me into a better person. I became more sensitive towards the needs of others because I had 'been there'."

"But I am oo firm ground when it comes to matter of faith. Father Ming and Father George, two priests friends from the SVD, keep me fit spiritually and physically. They're my tennis opponents, you know," affirms Manny, with a smile. MM

## From the provinces



Tarlac programme

Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague (centre), Bernabe Buscayno (left), former New People's Army leader Commander Dante, and Tarlac Gov. Mar Un Ocampo (right) meet with farmers on Buscayno's Integrated People's Livelihood programme in Capas, Tarlac. President Aquino visited Capas to see the progress of Buscayno's programme, distributed land emancipation patents, and toured various factories.

MANILA: Rep Julio Ozamiz of Misamis Occidental, vice-chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, speaking at the "Kapitan sa Alps" with BIR Commissioner Jose Ong and Court of Appeals Judge Mariano Filart, has deplored the impression "that it is always and only the taxpayer who is wrong."

He urged the BIR to go after grafters in the bureau. He added that the best way to increase collections is to motivate the people to pay the correct taxes by convincing them that an honest effort to eliminate the graft and corruption in the bureau is being undertaken, that the taxes will all go to the government, that they will be used for the benefit of the public, and that tax-fighting for a fraction of the amount due is not possible and will be penalised.

BALANGAN, Bataan: An official of Caltex Petroleum Corp. in Dallas, Texas, has expressed concern for the fishermen and the farmers economically affected by the oil spill of Bataan last Jan 25.

Raymood F. Johosoo, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the firm, said in a letter to Gov. Leonardo B. Roman that he was interested in Philippine affairs and the welfare of its people.

Saying he spent many years in the country in the employ of Caltex Philippines, Johnson said he was most concerned over the prospect of economic and social dislocation of the fishermen and the farmers.

Caltex will try to do all it can to resolve the issue arising from the oil spillage "in the spirit of constructive co-operation," he said, adding Caltex Philippines will take up the matter with the government.

MAKATI: A Makati

Regional Trial Court (RTC) judge sentenced a man to life imprisonment after he was found guilty of selling two foils of marijuana to lawmen who posed as drug addicts last August.

In his 12-page decision, Makati RTC Judge Oscar Fimentel meted the maximum punishment to Sonny Toedolo of 2641 Interior 36, Pasig line, Sta Ana, Manila. Toedolo was also ordered to pay a fine of P20,000 for violating Sec. 4 of Article 11, Republic Act 6425 known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1975.

Toedolo was arrested by Makati police narcotics agents last Aug 11 at the corner of Makati and Ayala avenues in Makati.

One of the operatives, patrolwoman Elizabeth Mendoza, posed as a buyer of the two foils of dried marijuana leaves for P20.

BALANGAN, Bataan: A team of medical specialists and consultants from the Heart Centre of the Philippines will hold here a five-day free consultation on cardiovascular diseases from March 19 to 23.

Dr. Rolando S. Banzon, chief of both the Bataan provincial hospital and the integrated provincial health office (IPHO), said that Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon is sending the team to Bataan in line with the Department of Health's medical-surgical outreach programme.

The provincial health officer said the team will look into the causes of cardiovascular illnesses which, he said, topped the list of killer diseases in Bataan last year. He said the team will be led by Dr. Agripino D. Reloza, assistant director for medical services.

Gov. Leonardo B. Roman thanked Bengzon and Health Undersecretary Antonio Periquez for including Bataan in the health department's outreach programme for

three successive years. He said the Bataan officialdom is grateful and happy over the gesture accorded to the Bataanos by the DOH.

MANILA: Brig. Gen. Marino Filart, PC Capital Regional Command (Capcom) chief and Metropolitan Police Force (MPF) director, stood firm on his policy of transferring erring policemen to Metro Manila to the provinces.

Filart said that he has directed the four police district superintendents in Metro Manila to the provinces. He said that he has directed the four police district superintendents in Metro Manila to submit the names of "rogue policemen" for possible transfer to far-flung provinces.

"We cannot boot them (policemen) out immediately. We will have to go through investigation to find out if they deserve to be taken to the province," Filart explained. The idea of a new policy, he further said, is for the policemen to reform themselves in a new environment.

"Sometimes, if a policeman has been assigned to a place for many years, and they have taken roots, they become untouchables," Filart said. The Capcom chief said Maj. Gen. Cesar Nazareno, PC chief, has supported his cautious against erring policemen.

Other sectors have criticised the policy, saying that this would not solve the problem of erring policemen and that the provinces would become a dumping ground for them.

Filart explained that the province would not be a dumping ground for erring policemen, saying those in "illita" and "PC" are transferred to other places not because of incompetence but for their improvement.

## Most promising Negrense cagers

IT is encouraging to note that among more than 70 candidates who are trying out for the RP national junior team, three come from Bacolod City. It has been a long time since outstanding young cagers of national caliber in the mould of Francis Arnaiz, Jimmy Nohlezada, Yves Dignadice and Nanning Valenciano have made Negros and Panay proud of its sports heritage. With the sports development programme initiated by the Negros Basketball Association through its year-round sponsorship of tournaments, the Bacolod youngsters are again motivated to improve their potentials in the sport. From this new crop of youngsters has emerged three outstanding teenagers each one deserving of a slot in the national junior team. They are:

**TEODORICO J. FERNANDEZ III** — This 18-year-old point-guard standing at 5'7" is Bacolod's version of the legendary Hector Calma. Those who have followed the PABL San Miguel Beer Cup competitions in the last Maharlika Cup tournament, will surely remember Boyet Fernandez' key role in the NBA-Bacolod team's winning the championship. Previous to this, Boyet impressed many with his performance as the court-general of the University of San Agustin (Bacolod) team in last year's National Students' Championships hosted by Pasig. In this tense cager has become the object of many PABL teams' interest. When Boyet decides to play in the PABL, he will definitely be an asset to any team he joins. Presently, Boyet is in his fourth and final year in Nursing at the University of San Agustin in Bacolod City.

**MANUEL LUIS B. LOCSIN** — is an 18-year-old equipped with an 6'3" height and well-built at 180 pounds. "Noli" has the potential to become the most dominant power forward in collegiate basketball. Now training with the De La Salle Green Archers, this sophomore Commerce student was recruited by coach Derek Pumaren. The only time this high-leaping and flashy forward played to Manila audiences was during the National Inter-Collegiate tournament in Pasig last year when he impressed many with his confidence and skill as a member of the University of San Agustin-Bacolod Golden Eagles. Manila cage fans will surely hear a lot more about this young Negrense.

**WILMER C. ONG** — When he was only 15 years old, Wilmer, who stands 6'4" and weighs 210 pounds, was already being referred to as the Benjie Paras of Bacolod City. "Defense-oriented, Wilmer, now 19, is a Benjie Paras of Bacolod City. He averages 20 rebounds per game and contributes 15 points per game. A third year commerce student, major in agri-business management at De La Salle-Bacolod where he is the top centre, Wilmer finished high school at Tay Tung. His coach in both schools is John Imperio. Although he has never played in Manila, Wilmer has accumulated himself impressively against top Manila cagers in Bacolod tournaments. Born in Cadiz City, Wilmer credits Bro. Roly Dizon of De La Salle-Bacolod for his guidance and support.

All the above three candidates to the RP Youth team were members of the NOPSCEA Selection that successfully participated in the Goodwill Games Invitational Tournament held in Taiwan last year.

**PELITA JAYA INVADES MANILA** — Indonesia's Pelita Jaya basketball club is probably the only Asian basketball club to come to Manila with the sole purpose of training the team in preparation for Indonesia's annual national basketball competition, the Kobatama tournament. Its decision to train and earn experience for its players was made not only because it has a Filipino coach in Nathaniel Canson but because it realizes that the team can be honed better and faster practicing against Philippine teams who are decidedly better advanced in playing skills techniques and experience. While in Manila, it has more than its fill of collegiate and commercial teams to play practice with. In Jakarta, there is a shortage of strong teams to play against. An added incentive is the fact that Indonesians have a social

and cultural affinity to the Filipinos and are accepted and welcomed as blood brothers in the Asian region.

The Pelita Jaya team, owned by the Bakrie Group of Companies, an Indonesian conglomerate in manufacturing, agriculture, electronics, services, mining and finance industries, was established in late 1986 by Indra Bakrie in pursuit of his commitment to promote and develop basketball in Indonesia. Other sports supported and subsidized by Bakrie are soccer, considered as the national sport of Indonesia, badminton, tennis, track and field, gymnastics, baseball and volleyball. Basketball, still in an infant stage in that country of 170 million, has recently been activated mainly through the dedicated efforts of Bakrie.

The Pelita Jaya team arrived last January 24 and proceeded to Baguio City the following day to participate in the Best Shot tournament. It placed third after the Far Eastern University Yamaywa and the San Sebastian College Stags. Thereafter, it returned to Manila and has followed a regimented schedule of practice games twice a day and has completed an estimated total of 24 games during their two-week stay in Manila. The new Pelita Jaya team, composed of only four leftovers from the original lineup with a majority of young and tall new recruits, have surprised their Manila opponents with their marked improvement in skill, technique and self-confidence. Their players range from 17 years to 27.

The first time the Pelita Jaya team came to Manila was in 1988 when it joined the PABL Invitational tournament.

Qatar and Kuwait are the other two countries who underwent extensive training and practices with Manila teams in preparation for their local tournaments and have emerged successful in the process.



Boyet Fernandez, Noli Locsin and Wilmer Ong.

Vivian Velez

## Vivian Velez returns

VIVIAN VELEZ, who's 28, is making a comeback on the wide screen after more than four years of absence (her last film was the 1985 Metro Manila filmfest entry *Paradise Inn* for which she bagged two best actress awards — the MMFF and FAMAS).

She sought greener pasture in California for a year and half. But was disenchanted, and went home.

But her comeback picture, *Boy Amores*, (opposite Anthony Alonzo) is more of a reunion for them. They co-starred in the box-office hit *Ben Tumbaling*, his highest film ever.

*Boy Amores* (a true-to-life vehicle not unlike *Ben Tumbaling*) served only as side line for Miss Body Beautiful. She has been more serious and devoted to portraying Imelda Marcos in the TV miniseries for the international market — *Chito Roco's Dahil sa Iyo*.

And it's also Rono who's directing her in the Viva project *Laman*, which was originally meant for Hilda Koronel. *Laman* will also star Zulueta and Julio Diaz. Velez regards this film as her real McCoy comeback picture. No doubt about it, the film title fits her to a big "T."



Fight on cancer

President Corazon Aquino greets one of the three children who have battled cancer of the liver as they call on her with leaders of the Philippine Liver and Cancer Foundation. At left is Fred J. Elizalde, head of the foundation, with his daughter Sasha, one of the three children. The others are Rhea Olayvar and Debbie Ann Lao.







## Surrey slam 707 for nine

## Cook hits unbeaten 313

LONDON, May 5, (Reuters): South African Jimmy Cook hit a record unbeaten 313 yesterday as his English county Somerset declared at 535 for two on the second day of their championship cricket match with Glamorgan.

It was Cook's best total and the highest individual score ever against Glamorgan, surpassing Wally Hammond's 302, which he achieved twice for Gloucestershire against the Welsh county in 1934 and 1939.

Cook hammered 42 boundaries to reach his treble century in 49 minutes and shared an unbroken third-wicket stand of 285 with captain Chris Tavare, who made 120.

But he finished nine short of the best score by a Somerset player, still held by West Indies captain Viv Richards who blasted 322 against Warwickshire in 1985.

Richard, now with Glamorgan, witnessed Cook's innings at

first hand. He even dropped Cook at slip on Thursday when he was on 197.

In his first season of English county cricket last year, Cook scored 3,143 runs for Somerset including 11 centuries, four of them in succession in the county championship.

It was the highest score in England since Worcestershire's Zimbabwe-born Graeme Hick 405 not out — against Somerset almost two years ago to the day.

Cook, who praised the Cardiff pitch, called for all championship matches to be held over four days. "It would help young batsmen prepare for Test cricket, especially with wickets like these," he said.

At present, there are more three-day games in the competition.

He added: "I had a great first season in the county championship but the second is almost certain to be harder for me because bowlers know my strengths and

weaknesses."

In a day of high scores around the sun-drenched country, Ian Greig came close to emulating Cook's triple century as Surrey scored a massive 707 for nine declared against Lancashire at the Oval, the second highest in their history.

It was Greig's first championship century, and when he was finally caught on the long-on boundary for 291 he had recorded the highest score by a Surrey player since Sir Jack Hobbs made 316 in 1926.

Greig's innings ended in a crescendo with three successive sixes off David Hughes and another off the first ball of Dexter Fitt's next over.

Altogether he hit nine sixes and 25 fours and his runs came from only 251 deliveries.

His stand of 205 with Martin Bicknell (42) beat by one run a club record for the eighth wicket which had stood for 93 years.

Injury-hit Northamptonshire will have looked at the run-glut elsewhere with envious eyes. They were dismissed by Derbyshire for just 50 in their second innings to be beaten by an innings and 51 runs inside two days.

Robbed through injury of three players — Allan Lamb, David Ripley and Nick Cook — Northants were ripped out in 17 overs for their lowest championship total for 44 years.

England paceman Devon Malcolm (three for 25) and West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop (four for 25) did the damage after Derbyshire had scored 303 in their first innings, a lead of 101.

## Scores

At Cardiff: Somerset 535 for two declared in 154 overs (J. Cook 313 not out, C. Tavare 120 not out). Glamorgan 198 for three in 75 overs (M. Cann 64, H. Morris 52).

At the Oval: Surrey 707 for nine declared in 165.1 overs (I. Greig 291, M. Bicknell 42). Lancashire 179 for one in 55 overs (G. Mendis 97 not out, M. Atherton 56 not out).

At Edgbaston: Yorkshire 167 in 71.5 overs and 139 for five. Warwickshire 259 in 80.5 overs (N. Smith 83 not out, G. Humphreys 52, S. Fletcher four for 47).

At Chelmsford: Leicestershire 520 in 181 overs (C. Lewis 189 not out). Essex 158 for one in 41 overs (G. Gooch 73 not out).

At Folkestone: Sussex 356 in 140.4 overs. Kent 192 for one in 77 overs (M. Benson 155 not out, S. Hinks 48).

At Worcester: Worcestershire 481 in 170.5 overs (P. Neale 122, R. Illingworth 117). Nottinghamshire 110 for nine in 46 overs. At Cambridge: Middlesex 320 for four declared and 112 for four (P. Farbrace 52 not out). Cambridge University 162 (S. James 54; J. Emburey four for 33).

At Oxford: Hampshire 437 for four declared. Oxford University 225 for six (R. Morris 61, G. Turner 59).

At Northampton: Northamptonshire 202 in 81.4 overs and 50 (I. Bishop four for 25, D. Malcolm three for 25). Derbyshire 303 in 98.3 overs (K. Barnett 58, A. Brown 44, B. Roberts 44; D. Capel four for 83). Derbyshire 23 points, Northamptonshire six points.



Jubilant Pakistanis

A jubilant Pakistani team crowds Waqar Younis (centre) after he trapped the Australian skipper Allan Border to turn the match in Pakistan's favour. Pakistan won the Australasia Cup after their 36-run victory over Australia on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

## 'Auld Mug' returns to San Diego

SAN DIEGO, California, May 5, (Reuters): Half a dozen television crews and 200 wellwishers gathered at San Diego airport yesterday to catch a glimpse of the America's Cup — the 'Auld Mug' — being wheeled off a flight from New York City.

The Cup was flown back after several months in a New York bank vault pending the outcome of New Zealand's final appeal against the result of the last America's Cup race.

At a press conference in the airport lounge, messages of congratulations were read from San Diego's Mayor Maureen O'Connor and from President George Bush.

San Diego Yacht Club official Grise Malin Burnham told the crowd he wanted to put the past behind him and start playing catch-up with the rest of the yachting world in preparing for the next America's Cup, now slated for San Diego in 1992.

Against a background of a giant American flag and standing next to the coveted Cup, organizing committee official Brian Bilbray said the best sportsmen had ultimately won.

"This is a recognition that not only does San Diego do it better than everybody else, we do it fairly. There's one thing in this lawsuit which drove me crazy as a San Diego sailor and that is somebody saying we didn't do it fairly. The rules were the rules and we won it fairly... that makes me proud," Bilbray said.

The next Cup series, scheduled for May 1992, could have as many as 21 challengers from nine nations, according to organising committee chief Tom Ehman.

The last controversial chapter in America's Cup racing began when New Zealand's Michael Fay stunned the yachting world after San Diego won back the Cup from Australia in 1987 by issuing a challenge with a 132-foot sloop — the biggest boat possible under the 'Deed of gift' governing the series.

San Diego at first refused, but when the courts ruled the challenge valid it countered by defending in the catamaran Stars and Stripes skippered by Dennis Conner. The catamaran easily won the 1988 best-of-three series 2-0.

Fay cried foul, charging that San Diego had cheated by sailing a catamaran which skirts over the water and is by nature faster than a sloop.

## Chinese to restrict travel to Beijing

BEIJING, May 5, (UPI): The government will restrict travel to Beijing by Chinese from other parts of the country during the September Asian Games, targeting large numbers of transient labourers and job-seekers, a state-run newspaper reported.

The newspaper, which gave only a few details, supported recent unofficial reports that the government would actually begin this summer to curtail movement of peasants and other transients to Beijing before the capital hosts the Asian Games.

"During the Asian Games, Beijing will place some limitations on those from other places coming to Beijing," the newspaper China Sports reported in a column, purportedly responding to an inquiry from a readers.

The newspaper said the measures had been approved by the State Council, China's cabinet.

The Games, Pan-Asian athletic competition, are held every four years between Olympics, with this year's scheduled from Sept 22 to Oct 7. Chinese officials see a successful hosting as key to their ambition to bid for the Olympics in the year 2000.

With \$500 million and precious national prestige invested in China's first major international sports event, officials apparently hope to reduce Beijing's so-called 'floating population,' of peddlers, transient workers and the unemployed.

China sports said the city would "take some limited measures," involving transients and reduce the number of government and business meetings to be held during the period.

The newspaper said the number of transients had reached 1.2 million in the city, whose official population is about 10 million. Ironically, the number included many of the 30,000 construction workers building stadiums and other Games sites.

This is not a small burden to Beijing, and also brings about pressures in public order," the newspaper said, reflecting official fears about the potential for unrest among large numbers of urban jobless.



Devon Malcolm



Ian Greig

## Lamontagne leads after first round

IRVING, Texas, May 5, (Reuters): Steve Lamontagne, playing in his first year on the PGA Tour, shot a four-under-par 66 yesterday to take a one-stroke lead after the opening round of the rain-shortened Byron Nelson Golf Classic.

Lamontagne, 24, had five birdies and one bogey on the TPC four seasons course on the outskirts of Dallas for a one-shot lead over Payne Stewart and Larry Nelson, who lost this tournament in a playoff last year to Jodie Mudd.

Bill Britton, Tom Sieckmann and Mark Hye were tied at 68. Mark Calcavecchia, Jim Beene, Andrew Magee, Phil Blackman and D.A. Wehring were the only others to break par with 69.

It was a cool, windy day on a course made more difficult because of wet conditions. A two-day storm dropped more than eight inches (20 cm) on the 16,850-yard layout and forced the tournament to be shortened to 54 holes from 72.

**Fired** Lamontagne's best finish this season was a tie for 12th in the Hawaiian Open where he fired a third-round 65.

Pat Rizzo held a two-shot lead in a rain-suspended first round of the \$425,000-LPGA golf tournament yesterday in Nashville, Tennessee.

Lightning and thunderstorms caused a three-hour delay and play was called because of darkness with 76 players left on the course. "They were to complete their first round today," Rizzo was safely in the clubhouse after a four-under-par round of 67. The Tour veteran played 17 holes before the suspension and then returned to the course three hours later to birdie her final hole and go to five under.

## Czechs name Cup squad

PRAGUE, May 5, (Reuters): Czechoslovak soccer manager Jozef Venglos stuck by defenders Ivo Krmfick and Lubos Kubik despite the objections of other team members when he named his World Cup squad yesterday.

Midfielder Kubik and striker Krmfick returned to the side for the friendly against England which the Czechoslovaks lost 4-2 last month.

The move provoked protests from other Czechoslovak players who said the pair had not gone through the usual qualification procedures and that their defections two years ago had weakened the national side.

But Venglos and his co-trainer Václav Jizek said they were confident that Krmfick, who now plays for Italy's Fiorentina, and Kubik, with West Germany's St Pauli, would be a great boost to the team.

Venglos will also be relying on the experience gained abroad by his star midfielder Jozef Chovanec, who has played for PSV Eindhoven for the past two seasons, number one goalkeeper Luděk

Miklosko, with England's West Ham and striker Stanislav Griga from Feyenoord Rotterdam.

The only new caps in the squad are three goalkeepers Petr Paluch and midfielder Jiri Nemec.

Venglos said he hoped any transfers to foreign clubs would soon be settled to allow his players to give their full attention to the World Cup.

"I announced the nomination now so that all the players could fully concentrate on completing the present season," Venglos added.

Several of the players named, including Krmfick, are nursing injuries but Venglos has until May 29 to change the line-up if necessary.

Midfielder Viliam Hyravy has an ankle injury and will have his foot in plaster for another 10 days and striker Milan Luhovy has had a minor injury.

After the last round of the League championship next week the World Cup players will have a brief holiday before leaving for West Germany on May 19 where they will play the national side a friendly on May 26.

## Fiorentina stadium ban to remain, says Uefa

ZURICH, May 5, (Reuters): Fiorentina's appeal against its ban from using their Florence ground and imposing the distance restrictions for the match after crowd trouble in the semifinal against Werder Bremen on April 17.

The Uefa appeals board said after the hearing that the sanctions would have been more severe had the match been played in Fiorentina's own stadium — under reconstruction for next month's World Cup finals — and not in nearby Perugia.

Fiorentina, beaten 3-1 by Juventus in the first leg of the final on Wednesday, must inform Uefa by midnight tomorrow where they intend to play the second leg on May 16.

Fiorentina were ordered to pay costs of the appeal totalling 15,500 Swiss francs (\$9,300).

Four players of Fiorentina may be fined or disqualified for threatening to use rough tactics against Juventus when the two meet in their second-leg match, an Italian League official said yesterday.

Brazilian midfielder Carlos Dunga and his Italian teammates Marco Nappi, Cleste Pina and Giuseppe Volpescina strongly criticized Juventus players following Wednesday's first leg.

The match was marred by rough play on both sides. "In the second-leg match they (Juventus players) will not leave the field on their feet," Volpescina was quoted as saying.

"Now it's real war between Fiorentina and Juventus, you will see in the return match," Dunga reportedly said.

Italy's soccer judge, Vito Giampietro, said he will decide on penalties prior to the second-leg game.

## Man planned to shoot at crowd

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, May 5, (AP): Police said no changes in security were planned for today's Kentucky Derby after the jailing of Louisville man who reportedly threatened to open fire on the crowd.

A complaint filed in US District Court yesterday charged Richard Keller, 32, with possession of ammunition by a felon.

"The man has indicated an intention to kill people and we did find military rounds in his possession and his home, and we had been told he had an AK-47 as of yesterday," assistant US attorney Cleve Gambill said.

Gambill said authorities had been unable to find the reported assault rifle, but were still searching.

A federal judge revoked Keller's bond Thursday. He has been free while awaiting sentencing for a federal civil rights charge of burning a cross in front of a black family's home in January. Keller pleaded guilty to that charge in March.

Churchill Downs officials said the track's security department had been informed of the situation but refused to comment on security plans.

## Colombia outlast Poland in friendly

CHICAGO, May 5, (Reuters): Colombia overcame adverse conditions to defeat Poland 2-1 yesterday and advance to tomorrow's final of a friendly soccer series.

Adjusting to wet and chilly conditions, Colombia used a pair of first-half goals to beat the Poles and reach the final against Atlas de Mexico, 2-0 winners over Costa Rica.

Colombia coach Francisco Maturana said it was not a good test for his team. "It was too slippery for our game and it was too cold."

Carlos Estrada scored the first goal of the match at 10:36 when he headed in a perfect crossing pass from Freddy Rincon after Rincon slipped from Polish defender Robert Warzycha in the corner.

Six minutes later, Arnaldo Iguaran took an Estrada pass in front of the goal and chipped it over goalkeeper Jozef Wandzik.

Poland pulled to within one at 35:42 when midfielder Roman Kosecki's bullet shot deflected in off Rene 'El Loco' Higuita, Colombia's flamboyant goalkeeper.

## Stopped

Kosecki had two excellent opportunities to equalise in the second half but Higuita stopped one and his left post stopped the other.

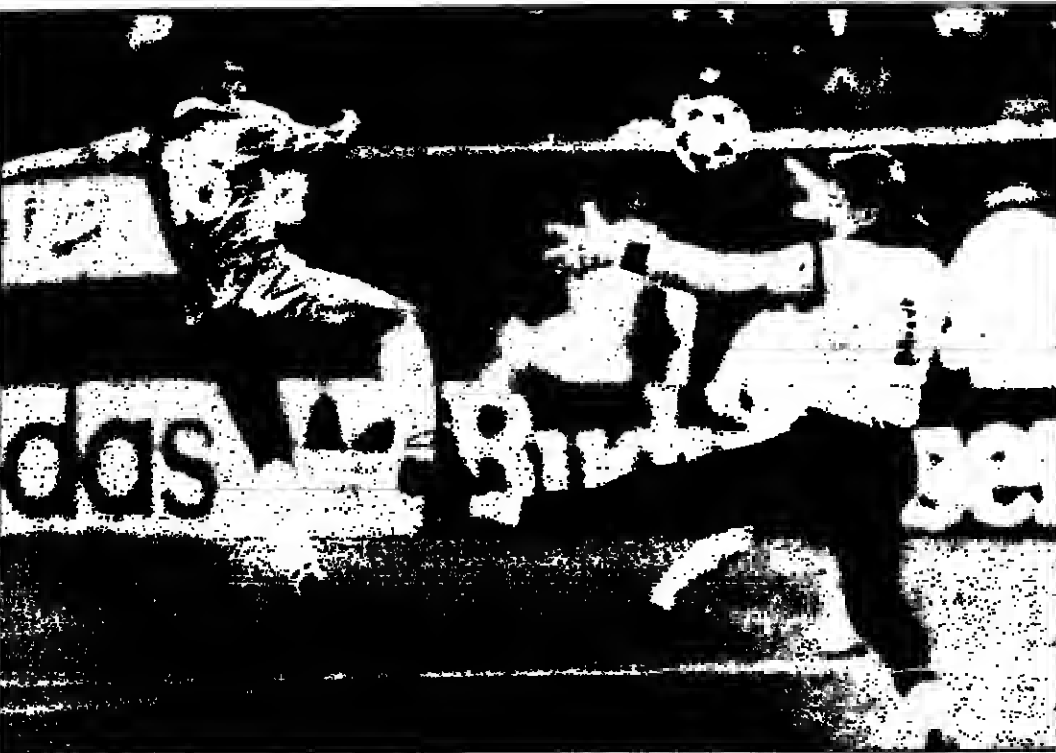
"The Colombians played a very good technical game," said Polish coach Andrzej Streliau. "After 20 minutes we started to play and we were the better team at the end. They played a good technical game, not like the physical game we play in Europe. We should have tied it 2-2 in the second half."

Atlas de Mexico, of Guadalajara, dominated the Costa Ricans with both goals coming in the first half off dead ball plays.

Daniel Pighin took a touch pass from Rene Isidoro Garcia and blasted into the upper right corner at 27:50.

At 33:18, Garcia assisted on another goal, floating a long free kick across the goal, confusing Costa Rica goalkeeper Gabele Conejo as Gustavo Salgado tapped it in from six feet.

The cold weather and rain held the attendance to 2,912.



Iguaran (left) chips the ball over Wandzik. (Reuters wirephoto)

## 'Dope test procedure foolproof'

BRUSSELS, May 5, (Reuters): Players at next month's World Cup finals are being warned that the dope test procedure is foolproof. Fifa's medical chief said yesterday.

"We can say the doping procedure is waterproof, or rather urine-proof," said Belgian Michel D'Hooghe, president of the Fifa medical commission.

Asked if he was privately hoping to catch a prominent victim — similar to the Ben Johnson case at the Seoul Olympics — in his doping net, D'Hooghe replied: "On the contrary."

"I'm not out, like a policeman, to catch someone driving through a red light. I hope everybody will stop before the red light," he said. "Far me a positive test is a defeat," added D'Hooghe, who was elected head of Fifa's medical commission in 1988.

He said two players from every team would be tested after first round matches, increased to three during later rounds.

But he added that the referee or Fifa observer could always force other players, whose attitude on the pitch appeared suspicious, to be tested.

"In theory, the whole team could be tested," D'Hooghe said.

The names of players drawn for the test will be put in a sealed envelope during the interval and opened 10 minutes before the end of the match, D'Hooghe explained.

"So they could have the tests immediately after the match, without going to the dressing room first," he said.

He said the testing procedure would be carried out by two Italian doctors, with a Fifa observer in attendance. A third doctor will handle transport of the samples in a laboratory in Rome, where they will be analysed by Italian professors, again in the presence of a doctor appointed by Fifa.

If found positive, the player or the team leader can demand a second test within 24 hours.

If the second test is also positive, the case will be passed on to Fifa's disciplinary commission, which is expected to exclude the player, D'Hooghe said.

He said it was also possible the disciplinary commission would investigate the role of the team's doctor, coach or other officials. "But that could take weeks," he said.



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Sheikh Fahd

## Sheikh Fahd elected Fifa vice-president

THE president of the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) Sheikh Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud yesterday secured a historic victory over his arch-rival, the Asian Football Federation, to win the Asian Football Federation (AFC) vice-presidency of the International Football Federation (Fifa).

Sheikh Fahd defeated Datu Hamzah 16-15 in one of the most hotly contested elections in the history of Asian football.

According to a press release issued by KFA yesterday, although two countries supporting Sheikh Fahd were barred from a voting by the

Asian federation, he managed to win in what was described by the local press yesterday as "a miracle." The headlines of all sports pages of the Arabic dailies on Saturday read "Sheikh Fahd needs a miracle to win."

According to press reports, Datu Hamzah met Sheikh Fahd on Friday in Indonesia, where the elections were held, and advised him to withdraw his nomination for the vice-president's post in order "to avoid risking his world-wide reputation as an important international sports leader."

Alfred, however refused to heed his advice, stressing that he firmly believed in democracy and in its outcome whether in his favour or against him.

Fifa officials including the president, Joso Havelange and secretary-general Sepp Blatter, who attended the Asian Football Federation congress, openly supported Datu Hamzah. The Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Sheikh Fahd, raised a number of legal issues protesting that Datu Hamzah should not contest for the vice-president's post because he was not a member of

his country's, Malaysia, football federation. Fifa secretary, Blatter, issued a ruling in Indonesia claiming that Hamzah was an honorary president of the Malaysian Football Federation, which the federation officially denied the next day.

Despite this, the Fifa officials raised no objection at Hamzah's nomination. But Hamzah was certain to remain president of the Asian federation as his only rival, also a Malaysian, was ordered to withdraw by the Malaysian prime minister just one day before the election.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Gomez wins

MADRID, Spain, May 5. (UPI): Second-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador took just one hour 20 minutes today to defeat Argentina's defending champion Martin Jaitre 6-3, 6-4 for a place in the final of the \$310,000 Grand Prix Villa de Madrid tennis tournament.

#### Baseball games

NEW YORK, May 5. (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games yesterday:

American League	
Detroit	5 Toronto 4
Chicago WS	5 Kansas City 1
Philadelphia	8 Los Angeles 3
Cincinnati	8 St Louis 3
Oakland	8 Boston 3
Baltimore	9 Seattle 8
Texas at Cleveland	postponed - rain
Minnesota at Milwaukee	postponed - rain

National League

Montreal	5 San Francisco 4
St Louis	8 Cincinnati 3
San Diego at Chicago Cubs	postponed - rain
Houston at NY Mets	postponed - rain
Atlanta at Pittsburgh	postponed - rain

#### Sheraton bridge

RESULTS of the marathon bridge game held at the Sheraton Hotel on Friday:

1. Qattan & Sulmei  
2. Mukerjee & Reddy  
3. Tiab & Desmond Pereira  
Handicap:  
1. Abedin & Elbaz  
2. Alain Moussali & Martinez  
3. Bianca Moussali & Ahmed

#### NBA playoffs

NEW YORK, May 5. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association playoff games yesterday:

NY Knicks 135 Celtics 108  
(Best-of-five series tied 3-2)  
Utah Jazz 105 Phoenix Suns 94  
(Best-of-five series tied 2-2)

#### Cup fans

ROME, May 5. (Reuters): Italian World Cup supporters today in Rome said it would be impossible to segregate rival fans throughout the World Soccer Cup this summer.

#### Appeal rejected

ZURICH, Switzerland, May 5. (AP): The Union of European Football Associations today rejected an appeal by the Spanish soccer federation against a \$1.5-million Swiss franc (\$1-million) fine imposed for violations of rules on television coverage.

#### Uruguayan player

UDINE, Italy, May 5. (Reuters): Carlos Aguirre, the Uruguayan forward accused of involvement in a vice ring, has rejoined his country's national soccer squad preparing for the World Cup finals starting in Italy next month.

#### Women's volleyball

PUERTO DE SANTA MARIA, Spain, May 5. (Reuters): Results of the first day of the Women's World Volleyball Championship qualifying tournament yesterday:

Group A	
Spain	3 Algeria 0
Yugoslavia	3 Germany 0
France	3 Venezuela 0
Group B	
Mauritius	3 Australia 3
US	3 Netherlands 2
Poland	3 Romania 0

#### Best lap

IMOLA, Italy, May 5. (Reuters): Ayrton Senna set the standard for next weekend's San Marino Grand Prix with a track-best lap of one minute 23.81 seconds at Imola today.

#### W. German soccer

BONN, May 5. (Reuters): West German First Division soccer results on Saturday:

Cologne	3 Hamburg SV 0
Borussia	3 VfB Stuttgart 1
St Pauli	3 Bayer 0
W. Bremen	3 Bayern Mun. 2
Borussia D	1 Kaiserslautern 1
Nuremberg	1 Bayer U. 1
FC Homburg	1 Bochum 0
Karlsruhe	1 Eintracht F. 0
Waldhof M.	0 Fortuna Dues 1

## Liverpool end season in style

### Luton survive drop to 2nd Division



John Barnes

LONDON, May 5. (UPI): Champion Liverpool ended the English League soccer season in champagne style today with a 6-1 victory over Coventry.

Striker John Barnes sounded a warning to England's World Cup rivals with a hat-trick and Israeli international Ronny Rosenthal scored two goals to boost his total to seven in eight matches.

All this came after Coventry's Kevin Gallacher had given the home team a second minute lead. But Welsh international Ian Rush equalized 14 minutes later with his 26th goal of the season allowing Barnes and Rosenthal to run riot.

The victory gave Liverpool a 38-match haul of 79 points, seven clear of second-placed Aston Villa, who shared a six-goal thriller at Everton where the match ended in a 3-3 draw.

Neil Pointon, Mike Newell and Kevin Sheedy netted for the home side, with Tony Casciaro, Gordon Cowans and Tony Daley replying for Villa.

Tottenham clinched third place on 63 points, thanks to a 2-1 victory against Southampton. Paul Stewart and Paul Allen gave the Londoners a 2-0 interval lead and Andy Cook replied for the Saints with a header one minute from time.

Luton edged Derby 3-2 to survive the drop to the Second Division at the expense of Sheffield Wednesday, who lost 3-0 against Nottingham Forest.

#### Results

English Division One	
Coventry	1
Derby	2
Luton	3
Everton	3
Manchester U	1
Millwall	1
Newcastle	2
QPR	2
Sheffield Wed	0
Tottenham	2
Southampton	1
English Division Two	
Blackburn	1
Birmingham	0
Bradford	0
Leicester	2
Middlesbrough	0
Oxford	0
Portsmouth	2
Sheff Wed	1
Swindon	1
Sunderland	2
Watford	3
West Bromwich	1
Wolves	0
English Division Three	
Birmingham	0
Blackpool	0
Bristol C	4
Bury	2
Cardiff	3
Crewe	3
Fulham	1
Huddersfield	4
Notts County	4
Rotherham	2
Northampton	0
Shrewsbury	
Swansea	2
Tranmere	7
English Division Four	
Aldershot	0
Chesham	2
Colchester	1
Halifax	1
Lincoln	1
Maidstone	5
Peterborough	5
Rushdale	5
Scunthorpe	4
Torquay	1
Wrexham	1
Scottish Premier Division	
Dundee	1
Dundee United	1
Hearts	1
St Mirren	0
Scottish Division One	
Airdrie	3
Albion	1
Alloa	0
Arbroath	1
Clydebank	1
Falkirk	0
Gillingham	0
Greenock	1
Inverness	1
St Johnstone	1
Scottish Division Two	
Berwick	5
Brechin	2
Clackmannon	1
Montrose	1
Queen's Park	1
Stirling	2
Stranraer	4
Honours	
English and Scottish League soccer	

## Poor crowds at Sharjah tourney

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, May 5. (AP): The six-nation Australasia Cup tournament at the lush Sharjah stadium, the cricket oasis of the desert, drew poor crowds and organisers are taking a long, hard look at future plans, officials reported today.

The Cricketers' Benefit Fund Series, which organised the tournament that ended yesterday, lost an estimated hundreds of thousands of dollars because of poor attendance at the Sharjah stadium, the only international class cricket stadium in the Middle East.

But informed sources said the fund series, which has reaped

undisclosed but healthy returns from recent cricket contests, is not likely to stop the bi-annual Australasia Cup tournament.

Abdul-Rahman Bukhtair, vice-president of the fund series and the driving force behind international cricket matches in the Gulf, has invested millions of dollars in the game over the last decade.

He is already preparing for his next tournament, the Sharjah Cup scheduled for the end of the year, the sources said.

The smallest crowds at the Australasia Cup tournament, some as small as 4,000, were for the matches involving Australia, New Zealand and Bangladesh.

On the two Fridays, the Muslim

holidays, most games were played to the crowds of about 17,000.

The poor attendance at the nine matches played over 10 days was blamed on relatively expensive tickets, India's early defeat and the hot, humid weather.

Matches played by Pakistan and India usually generate the most interest and the best gate receipts.

Indians and Pakistanis are the largest expatriate groups in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates.

The first few matches also coincided with the three-day Muslim

#### Four-match series

SYDNEY, Australia, May 5. (AP): Australia is negotiating to play a four-match cricket series against Pakistan in the United States later this month, officials said today.

Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive David Richardson will meet with organisers in New York and Los Angeles over the weekend to discuss the proposal, said ACB general manager Graham Halbish.

Halbish said Australia had been invited to replace India in the series of matches following India's withdrawal after political tensions between it and neighbouring Pakistan.

The proposed schedule includes two matches in New York on May 12 and 13, one in Houston on May 19 and one in Los Angeles on May 26.

## Netherlands thrash New Zealand

SYDNEY, Australia, May 5. (AP): Defending champion the Netherlands blitzed New Zealand 3-0 today to maintain its unbeaten record after three matches in the women's World Cup field hockey championship at the State Sports Centre.

The Netherlands now has six points to lead Pool B of the 12-nation tournament, which continues through May 13.

Seoul Olympic silver medalist South Korea defeated previously unbeaten Canada 1-0 to take second-place in the drop with a 2-

1 record. Spain scored its first triumph with a 3-1 win over the winless United States.

Top-seeded Australia, which is locked in a battle with West Germany and England at the head of Pool A, was inactive today.

All Pool A teams will play their third matches tomorrow with England meeting China, Australia facing West Germany and Argentina facing Japan.

Helen van der Ven scored twice for the third-seeded Dutch team, which took a 2-0 lead early

## Falah opts out of local event

FOR the first time for many years, no Marlboro car competed in Friday's local rally, which saw veteran driver Tareq Al Alyan coming home to the first outright win of his career. Alyan, who was the first ever Marlboro Desert Challenge Champion, back in 1987, was partnered by Sadeq Ashkanani, and drove a modified Range Rover, the most powerful car he has ever competed in. Second place was captured by British expatriate team Lester Featherstonehaugh and Edgar Speak in a Lada.

Brigadier Kuwait Champion Eid Fahal Al Farzan, who has competed this season in a Marlboro Mitsubishi Pajero explained his decision to opt out of this event. "Basically it was to give someone else a chance to come home first. I've been unbeaten since January 1989, and since the beginning of 1988 almost every event was taken either by me or by my Marlboro colleague, Tareq Al Wazzan. Perhaps it gets a little boring for the fans."

"I discussed it with Marlboro, and we decided not to compete — as a sporting gesture aimed at putting a little interest back into the championship. I'm delighted to see Tareq winning — he's been competing for years, and this is his first victory."

## Sanchez stuns Navratilova

HAMBURG, West Germany, May 5. (AP): Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain beat Martina Navratilova for the first time in her career today and advanced to the final of the \$350,000 Citizen Cup women's tennis tournament.

Sanchez-Vicario, ranked fourth in the world and the No. 3 seed, wore down Navratilova with steady baseline play to win a 6-1, 6-7 (7-3), 6-2.

The 18-year-old French Open champ had lost to the second-seeded Navratilova six times, but won a slow clay court, her favourite surface.

"I played very well today and I am very happy," Sanchez-Vicario said. "I concentrated very well throughout the match."

"Martina is a champion, she is always tough to play," she added.

## Players fined

NEW YORK, May 5. (Reuters): Twelve members of the Milwaukee Bucks and Chicago Bulls were fined a total of \$19,000 for their roles in a brawl during Chicago's series-clinching victory in the playoffs on Thursday.

Horace Grant of the Bulls and Milwaukee's Alvin Robertson were each fined \$5,000 for throwing punches during the fourth-quarter incident.

Greg "Cadillac" Anderson of the Bucks was fined \$3,500.

## Agassi, Gilbert score contrasting wins



Agassi thrashed Wheaton

ROSOWELL, Georgia, May 5. (UPI): Americans Andre Agassi, Brad Gilbert and Scott Davis registered straight-set victories yesterday, advancing to the semifinals of the \$280,000 AT-and-T Challenge.

Agassi used a combination of powerful groundstrokes and delicate drop shots to crush David Wheaton 6-4, 6-2. Gilbert took advantage of a mental lapse by Richey Reneberg to win 7-6 (9-7), 6-4, while Davis ousted Tim Mayotte 6-2, 6-3 in the exhibition tournament.

Agassi used his penetrating groundstrokes to move Wheaton from side-to-side in the clay courts. The No. 1 ranked American repeatedly blasted winners into an open court after surprising Wheaton with deft drop shots.

"On clay you can get away with drop shots a lot more," said Agassi, who punctuated the match with a high-velocity forehand that left Wheaton flustered on the baseline.

"It's an effective shot, especially when you play with so much power and keep the guy deep," he said. "Throwing in a drop shot really keeps him guessing."

While the slow clay blunted Wheaton's powerful serve-and-volley attack, the 20-year-old Minnesota native said Agassi's tactics caused him the most problems.

"He plays the most unorthodox, low-percentage shots in the game, but he makes them," said Wheaton, who is ranked No. 46 on the IBM ATP Tour.

Gilbert and Reneberg engaged in a 1 hour, 38 minute baseline duel that was more notable for the frequency of unforced errors than sparkling play.

"I played a couple of lackadaisical games right off the bat," said Gilbert, the world's fifth-ranked player. "He played a loose game late in the set and let me back in it. I had three-set points, but I didn't capitalize and was fortunate to win a long tie-breaker. It was a struggle."

Davis overwhelmed Mayotte with a clever mix of penetrating groundstrokes and drop volleys. Mayotte never found the right rhythm with his powerful serve, dropping his delivery twice in the opening set and in the critical eighth game of the second.

## Moses quit TAC board due to lack of support

RALEIGH, North Carolina, May 5. (Reuters): Edwin Moses, the 400 metres hurdles world record holder and a leading fighter against performance-enhancing drugs, said yesterday he had quit the Athletics Congress (TAC) drug-testing programme because of lack of support.

"We haven't been getting the support we should. It has become very difficult to deal with TAC," Moses said in a telephone news conference.

He accused administrators at TAC, US athletics' governing body, of obstructive methods in dealing with the year-round drug-testing committee, which he had chaired.

Moses said he had made TAC executive director Ollan Cassell aware of his feelings earlier this week but that Cassell's response was "nothing significant."

Cassell could not be reached for comment and TAC president Frank Greenberg declined to discuss the resignation of Moses.

"Hopefully they (TAC officials) will be shocked into action," Lambelet said.



Edwin Moses

former Olympic sprinter H. Glance and middle distance runner Linda Sheskey from TAC drug-testing custodial board.

Washington attorney Don Lambelet, who has served as a legal adviser to Moses on drug-testing issues, also said during the news conference she had disassociated herself with TAC's testing programme.

"Hopefully they (TAC officials) will be shocked into action," Lambelet said.

## PBAK entries open

AFTER being postponed twice the Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBAK) finally pushed through with the Graded B tournament at the Holiday Inn bowling alleys.

The tourney which started last Friday is open to all PBAK members whose average score falls within the 150-170 bracket.

The elimination round will go on until Tuesday, May 8. The game starts at 6:00pm and for further details and scheduling contact Danny Nabong, Mars Balisi or Beda Borja.

Schedules can also be obtained at the bowling alley counter. The step-ladder finals for this event will be held on Friday, May 11 and winners of this tournament will get trophies plus cash prizes.

Meanwhile, the registration for the all Filipino Summer League is now going on and will last until May 15. Interested parties can contact any officer of PBAK. Application forms are

also available at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes counter. This event which is set to commence on May 25 is being held in the absence of the annual Filipino Mini Olympics. This will be a team event open to all Filipino bowlers who are bonafide members of PBAK. The mens division will be a five man team affair while the ladies division will be a four woman team competition. Venue of the games will most likely be the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

And finally, in view of the forthcoming Philippine Independence Day celebrations all Filipino expatriates in Kuwait are invited to a pre-Independence Day gathering to be held on June 8 at the Messiah Beach. This affair is being held under the auspices of the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait and for more details contact any of the officers of the different Filipino organisations here in Kuwait.

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